

# COUNTRY LIFE

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THE Journal for all interested in  
Country Life and Country Pursuits

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## THE DECREASE IN BRITISH LIVESTOCK.

**M**R. R. H. REW, in his Annual Report on the Acreage and Livestock Returns of England and Wales, a summary of which will be found in another column, points out the curious and what he calls unsatisfactory fact that our stock of farm animals steadily decreased in the months between June, 1912, to June, 1913. Nor is the process showing any signs of coming to an end. This is all the more remarkable because of the clear tokens we have had that meat of every kind is likely to be enhanced in price within the immediate future. Instead of making ourselves less, we are evidently becoming more dependent on the foreign supplies. It is not as if only one branch were decreasing. The shrinkage has taken place in horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. The number of cows and heifers in the year under review was no fewer than 83,000 less than it had been in the previous year, which in its turn showed a decrease of 45,000 compared with its predecessor. Now, if our farmers have not cows and heifers,

it is very evident that in these days they will find it most difficult to increase their stock. From the Continent cattle are not exported to this country, nor is it desirable that they should be, since foot-and-mouth and other contagious diseases are always more or less prevalent there. The number of cases in Germany, France, Austria and Italy is enormous when compared with the small number which is sufficient to create a scare in this country. Supplies in the past have come largely from Ireland; but the outbreak there has closed up this source. Further, the practice among dairy farmers of selling their calves to the butchers is a serious handicap. If a good proportion of the calves in our dairy herds were reared, the stockbreeder would not be nearly so dependent upon outside sources. This was mentioned by the reporters of the Board as one of the causes, but it is not a sufficient explanation, especially when we take into account the diminution of our flocks. Roughly speaking, out of a total of seventeen million sheep we have lost close on a million, and the stock of sheep is the smallest on record. The worst side of this is that the decrease is largely among breeding ewes. An explanation offered is that the consumption of lamb has very largely increased in this country, and to satisfy it the sheep are killed at a very early stage in their career. From the consumer's point of view this state of things is deplorable. He knows that supplies of frozen mutton from the Argentine are being steadily deflected to the United States, and consequently there is a greater demand for the home-bred article. The latter must certainly go up in price; but we would have thought that a class so far-sighted as the farmers would have anticipated the increased consumption and made preparations for it. The sheep is their sheet anchor.

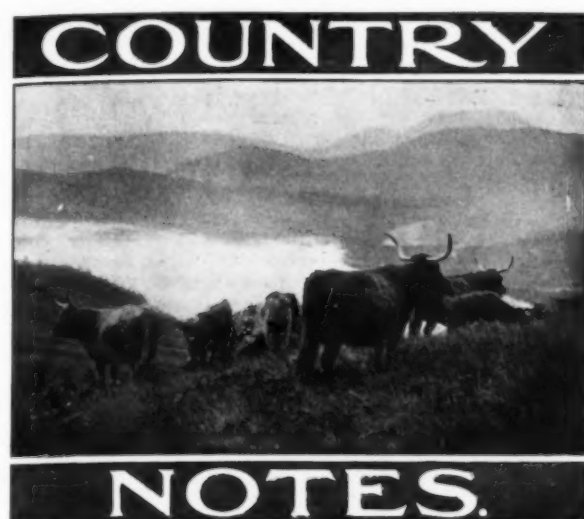
Other considerations account for a falling off in the number of pigs. Owing to a variety of reasons, the British farmer has become shy of keeping them. His principal objection is to be found in the chance of their catching swine fever. This mysterious disease is transmitted no one knows exactly how, and even when compensation is made for the animals slaughtered, the trouble and expense involved in producing them mean a very heavy loss. Besides, the farmer complains that the price of feeding-stuffs is so high as to reduce the profits of pig-keeping to a minimum. The business is really one for the small holder. It is well understood that a small quantity of pigs may be made to pay where a large quantity will not do so. As long as they can live on what would be waste or partial waste on the farm, so that not much food has to be bought, they are undoubtedly profitable. Thus the small holder who grows so good a crop as potatoes, after selling the best would probably have enough small left to feed one or two pigs. In the same way, the dairy farmer might profitably turn his surplus milk into bacon. That is why the Danes do so well with their pigs. The English farmer, as a rule, sells the milk, and therefore has no surplus to feed stock with; but the Danish farmer, making as he does large quantities of butter, has skim milk, which comes in very useful for feeding. The small holders in Great Britain would probably do a great deal of good, both for themselves and for the country at large, if they would concentrate their energies on this form of husbandry.

We have not alluded so far to the falling off in the number of horses, because this, of course, is a different subject; it has nothing to do with the food supply. Yet it is very pronounced and means a curtailment of agricultural activity. At least, it would appear to do so on the surface; but in all these cases we have to remember that the British farmer has been taught by experience to specialise. There are, in point of fact, more pedigree stock raised than ever there were before in this country. Our pedigree Shires and grander Clydesdales and light horses are small in number but splendid in quality. So are the cattle, sheep and pigs that are bred for exhibition or export. The falling off in their case is in the animals meant for food, and among horses it is in animals kept for labour.

## OUR PORTRAIT ILLUSTRATION

**T**HE subject of our frontispiece is Miss Ashton, the elder daughter of the Countess of Scarborough, whose engagement to Lord Gerald Wellesley has been recently announced.

\* \* It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper. When such requests are received, the Editor would esteem the kindness of readers if they would forward the correspondence at once to him.



**R**ECENT comment on the forestry work done at Inverlever rather tends to make one doubtful of the advantage of the State taking up an industry. Rather too late has it been discovered that the choice of land in Argyllshire was not very felicitous. Forestry ought to be a means of utilising poor land, but the poverty must not be too extreme, or the expense will be greater than the profit. The remoteness of the country carries with it great drawbacks. Oban is thirty miles away and the difficulties of transit almost insuperable. Then, labour is the reverse of plentiful, and, instead of arresting the rural depopulation, the State has not been able to carry out the plan of working forestry and small holdings together. No doubt in suitable circumstances the plan is the best imaginable, because the holder could work a moderate-sized plot of land at one time of the year, and labour among the woods at another time. The two seasons do not clash. But the district does not lend itself well to the combination and, as a matter of fact, the hands employed at the present moment are lodged in a bothy. There is said to be land along the shores of Loch Awe out of which two dozen small holdings might be carved; but it is difficult to obtain suitable tenants in such an out-of-the-way part of the world.

Among the letters written about the beauty of the roadside, there is none more eloquent than Lord William Cecil's lament for the disfigurement of Hertfordshire. It is very certain that the farmer and the County Council between them have to a considerable extent demolished the wild flowers of the roadside. Lord William does not seem to have noticed, or, at any rate, does not mention the fact, that many of the features which have been destroyed on the highway reappear on the railway banks. At the moment the gorse is yellow enough to have pleased Linnaeus himself, who knelt and praised God for having made a thing of such beauty. In due time the moon daisies and other flowers appear on the railway bank, and disappear to give place to others. Bluebells are surely as plentiful as ever they were, and so are the violets and cowslips. The flower that has suffered most is the primrose. Of them all it has most commercial value, as it can be so easily transplanted and grown in the garden. We are afraid that country people have little ground for reproaching the town people in this respect, as they root the plants for cultivation in their own orchards.

At this time of year the English orchard begins to assume an aspect that justifies Mr. Wm. Robinson's eulogy. In the South of England the plum trees are almost in full bloom—companions of the blackthorn, which in places where it has been allowed to grow is whitening the hedgerow. The pear trees give promise of that prodigal abundance of blossom which so often excites the hopes and leads to the disappointment of young growers. For the pear is a delicate species among fruits and cannot be depended upon to fruit in our climate. Its blossom comes before that of the apple; but then, peaches grown outside flower before even the plum does, so that the more delicate plants would appear to be the first to dare the cold blasts of early spring. However, the apple is the tree for flower, as it is also pre-eminently the tree for edible fruit, and we know of nothing prettier than an apple orchard in full bloom. It is the good fortune of the apple to come

late. Country folk have a tradition that there is invariably a frost on or about May 8th, and if the apple blossoms escape that, there will be a good yield. At present the flower buds are scarcely formed, and only the expert eye can see whether they will be plentiful or not. The pears and plums, being further forward, are more conspicuous, and are now striking the chief note in those districts where they are cultivated on a large scale.

At Welbeck Abbey the Eastertide of 1914 was made memorable by the celebration of Lord Titchfield's coming of age. The Duke, in his characteristically liberal manner, marked his sense of gratefulness for the event by the bestowal of land for open spaces and other gifts to the County of Nottingham, and by entertaining on a large scale at the Abbey. An event of this kind occurring in any class of society excites kindly and very human sympathy, and this feeling was accentuated towards the Duke of Portland, who has filled his high position irreproachably. There is no landowner in England who is better liked by his own people or has discharged his duties more thoroughly. Every tenant and every labourer on the Welbeck Estate is convinced in his own mind that he has no more steadfast friends than the Duke and Duchess, whose interest in their people ever has been as practical as it is kindly. No better wish can be expressed for the Marquess than that he should follow in his father's footsteps. He assumes the *toga* at a moment when to be the son of a great landowner is not to recline on a bed of roses. He will have much, and therefore much is expected of him.

#### THE AURICULA.

*"Where hast thou bought this brave attire?  
These tints of wine, these lights of fire,  
To bloom beneath the mossy dyke?  
I would I had the wealth, in truth—  
I would I saw the merchant's booth  
Where I might purchase me the like!"*

With three brief days my life is done:  
Yet He who lit the eternal sun,  
Gave this gold heart, this dusky rim!  
Thankful, I lift my cup, my crown,  
And every mortal, looking down,  
Who is glad of beauty, honours Him—  
Loves me, and honours Him!

AGNES S. FALCONER.

In Vienna energetic steps have been taken to abate the fly nuisance. The work is not new, as for several years past the leading medical men have inculcated the duty of getting rid of the housefly as far as possible. The Viennese have come to understand that these insect pests are disease carriers, and that it is really worth while taking some trouble to get rid of them. The general principle adopted has been to remove all refuse from the streets and to clean up every foul corner that might serve as a breeding-place. In fact, the policy has been adopted in Vienna which we have for years past consistently advocated for London. It is of little use to put trust in legislation when an end of this kind has to be achieved; the first step is to educate the general public to a sense of the danger and instruct them as to the means by which it can be abated. If it be possible to get rid of flies in the United States and in Austria, it should not be impossible in Great Britain.

It is very curious that a sedentary game like chess should be turning rapidly into a holiday pastime, yet at Easter there was evidence of this transformation. There was county chess of first-rate quality at Canterbury, where Kent holds a congress every year. This year there were about seventy competitors, and among them some of the most distinguished players in London. At the same time an international struggle was in progress between Holland and Great Britain. Two rounds were played, and in each this country was victorious, thus easily winning the tournament. The event is rather remarkable, because in British chess there has been a decadence of recent years. Formerly, Great Britain was top of the tree; now she has not a representative who is at all likely to win the Championship of the World, which is to be competed for in the congress to be held during the early summer in St. Petersburg.



Sir Sidney Colvin's discovery of three hitherto unpublished poems by John Keats brings up an interesting question. In hunting among the refuse left by a man of genius, it is very seldom that anything worth printing is to be found. In these days of pressure, every man of letters who is successful has so many demands made on his writing that practically everything which he would like to see in type is printed. On the other hand, in the course of making himself, a poet, or even a novelist, must perpetuate many things which he would gladly let oblivion swallow. One of them is this poem by John Keats which has now been brought to light. No lover of poetry, for itself, will be at all pleased to learn that he who wrote the "Ode to a Nightingale" could produce such lines as

Your hand  
No soft squeeze for squeeze returneth,

or could fall into the banality of saying, "If those words should burn me . . . in thy heart inurn me." On the whole, then, it is surely better for a man's reputation that no rummage should be made for that which he neglected to publish himself. Even in the case of so consummate an artist as the late Lord Tennyson, there has been nothing brought to light since his death but what might have been allowed to perish without lament. Most of us would be content to cherish the noble numbers of a poet without adding his failures to them.

For two years a Royal Commission on the Civil Service has been taking evidence and discussing suggestions for its reform. Their Report has just been issued. It is a very able document, proposing many important changes and yet conservative of what is best. The competitive system should not only be retained, but extended, in the opinion of the Commission. The alternative is patronage, and patronage never has and never could fill the Civil Service of the country with a body of men so capable as those we at present possess. Such appointments as have been made in connection with National Insurance and Labour Exchanges should in future be by examination. Another strong point made in the Report is that several years of early manhood spent under the best educational system of our schools and Universities is a better preparation for the higher appointments than the same period of clerical work at a desk. This may give some offence to those who assert that the better posts in the Civil Service are not open to the children of working men; but their objection will not hold water when the examination and educational systems of the country are logically co-related.

An important matter which came before the Commission was the treatment of women in the Civil Service. The complaint which had to be dealt with is that women are called upon in many cases to do the same work as men at a smaller rate of pay. No injustice to women was in danger of being overlooked by a Commission of which Miss Haldane was a member. The language used in the Report is very cautious and yet very fair. It is to the effect that where women are capable of doing the work of men they should be paid at the same rate. Where this is not the case there must be a differentiation. It is a coincidence that even while the Report was being distributed the same question was being debated at the Teachers' Conference. But the justice of the "equal pay" cry is not so apparent as it looks, and the majority of teachers rejected the claim. Were it admitted, men would be chosen for many important posts now filled by the opposite sex simply because the average man is stronger and better fitted for hard work.

The fine, and even excessive, head of water maintained in our rivers all through the month of March and well into April had emboldened us to make a forecast of good prospects for the angler both of trout and salmon, but it is not often that prophecy is so quickly and fully justified as this has been by some of the early catches of the year. The very opening day of the trouting on some of our lakes and reservoirs was marked by the catch of unusually large fish, in good condition, and from the rivers of the West, where the season is always early and the "blue upright" the favourite lure, more than commonly good reports are to hand of the first weeks of the fishing. But, of course, the great catch of those weeks was the fifty-one-pound salmon on the Wye by Mr. Wyndham Smith, which he followed by the take of a forty-two-pounder about half an hour afterwards. The former is the record for the rod on the Wye, and we may

doubt if the two together do not make a record for any two salmon caught by the rod in Great Britain in so short a time. From Caithness to Devon—almost from John o' Groat's to Land's End—all the salmon reports are good.

The fame of Dr. Erasmus Darwin has been so entirely eclipsed by the renown of his illustrious grandson, Charles Darwin, that his very name is hardly remembered now. He died this day, April 18th, in 1802, and enjoyed a very considerable literary celebrity in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Of course, his best known work is the "Loves of the Plants," and it is rather difficult for us to realise the serious appreciation with which it was received on its publication. It has rather a special interest, as supplying an instance of the power of a single stroke of well directed ridicule to kill a literary reputation, for there is no doubt that the life of the "Loves of the Plants" was effectively done to death by Canning's satirical parody on it, the "Loves of the Triangles." The floral amours suffered mathematical murder. But Dr. Erasmus was a distinguished man of science, as well as poet. By profession he was a physician, and the critical essay on his works by Krause suggests that he possessed much of that gift of patient investigation, inspired by the scientific imagination, which led his famous grandson to the discoveries that have profoundly altered the trend of modern thought.

#### ALLOTMENT.

A square patch for shallots and some sprouts for the autumn,  
Twelve feet, say, for runners and peas (and time soon for some,  
And a trench for the succulent leek that the peer abuses  
And the peasant uses.

Near a south wall a strip for an early potato,  
Worth a "Jew's eye" is a south wall (poor men say so)  
And a pleasant border of simples for soups and gravies,  
Mint, fennel and sav'ries.

Root crops—leaf crops—pulse crops—a brisk succession!  
A little bit? Well, p'rhaps so, but a great possession,  
And a harvest, forsooth, to glean from my wayside allotment  
To city-folk not sent.

ELIZABETH KIRK.

It was not without reason that the King sent a message to Colonel Acland complimenting him and his associates on the increasing success of the Easter parade of van horses. This is noteworthy chiefly because the number of horses used in vans is much less than it used to be, and yet far more are sent to compete. On Easter Monday there were present in Regent's Park no fewer than 1,058 drivers, of whom 107 were with single horses and two-wheeled vehicles, and 750 with single horses drawing four-wheeled vans; while there were 201 pairs. The increase is very great over last year, and it has been going on steadily since 1904. The appearance of the horses was such as to show that the prizes for careful grooming, humane treatment and cleanliness of horse and harness have very greatly increased the attention devoted to these matters. A feature of the exhibition is the system of giving rewards for long service on the part of the men. It is sometimes thought that the country has a monopoly of old servants; but the winners had remarkable records in London. One driver has had fifty-two years of unbroken service with Messrs. Marshall and Snelgrove; another runs him close with fifty-one years, and a third has spent forty-nine in the employment of the London and South Western Railway Company. The Van Horse Parade is an institution which deserves great praise for its encouragement alike of horse and man. It has done very good work indeed.

Anyone who is not an out and out pacifist must agree with the Master of Sherborne and the others who advocate military training for the Universities. Speaking from practical experience, he says it "is one of the most valuable factors from the moral and intellectual, even more than from the physical point of view." It is not only that we need armed men to defend our shores, but their military training gives "a building up of virility, sense of discipline, sense of citizenship." Now, the University, as the crown of the educational system, cannot afford to neglect so great a function as this. If military training does what is claimed for it (and nearly all the other headmasters in the country agree with Mr. Noel Smith), it is the business of the University to encourage it among the students. Not only do we want the University student to be virile and public-spirited, but they ought to set an example of good citizenship.



## RICE PLANTING IN JAPAN.



PLANTING OUT.

**I**N the early spring, when the cold winds are still sweeping over the rice fields in Japan, there is an aspect of lifelessness and desolation about them. To the European eyes accustomed to dry-cultivated soil, or green grass meadows with feeding cattle in them, the sight of so much mud and water in the landscape appears depressing, and there is a great absence of human habitations and people as well; but the character of the crops under cultivation makes it necessary that the peasants should be housed in settlements or villages away from the large wet areas given up to the growing of rice and other crops.

These rice areas are divided up into fields or plots of all shapes and sizes by small grass-grown ridges a few inches in height, and averaging about a foot in breadth, thus enclosing the soft mud in which the rice is planted. The preparation of these fields is extremely arduous work, involving much hoeing and careful construction of these mud dams, and it includes a whole system of terracing, whereby the water necessary for irrigation is led gradually down from field to field, for all high-class rice requires flooding. The little streams and rivulets which

provide the water for these terraced hills and wide valleys are very often shaded by bamboo plants, and these streams feed the ditches cut for water channels; narrow tracks or footpaths are also made through the rice fields. But if these fields look desolate at spring time, there is no lack of life in them when the

planting season begins in June, for then they are filled with men and women busily engaged in transplanting the young rice plants; and, fortunately for this industry, Japan possesses a large supply of cheap labour. The seeds of the rice are first thickly sown in the small wet fields, or nursery beds, in the early spring (April), and when the young plants have attained the height of four inches or thereabouts, they are very carefully transplanted to the larger fields, at wider intervals, in rows, and, as may be imagined, this is an exceedingly laborious kind of work. When one looks at the innumerable little plants in the nurseries, with their vivid green shoots and delicate-looking roots, the removing of them by hand to the larger fields and planting singly seems an almost impossible task, and with European labour it might be so; but the peasantry of Japan have



PACKING RICE IN STRAW BALES.

been accustomed to this tedious method of agriculture through many centuries and, from habit, it is taken as a matter of course, and the men and women, standing knee-deep in the mud and water and stooping over their toilsome work, spare no pains in the planting out of the young rice in the soft mud. The value of the harvest is probably in their minds as the reward for all this labour.

The Eastern agricultural labourer must be seen to be fully realised. Japanese backs are supple! but the sight of so much stooping and bending is enough to make a European feel the pains of lumbago in his back from the mere contemplation of it.

When the rice is growing up then the fields show a very brilliant green, and they are kept under a few inches of water all the time the young crops are growing, which is only drained away just before the harvesting of the rice. The rice plant blooms early in September, and the crops are reaped in October, and hung up to dry on short poles. The threshing is done with flails or heckles, a kind of comb. Various methods of fertilisation are used by the Japanese farmer,



STRIPPING OFF THE RICE GRAINS BY DRAWING THE STALK THROUGH TOOTHED FRAMES.

some of them most unsavoury to the European nose; in fact, the "smells" that emanate from the ground in the agricultural districts in Japan often destroy one's sense of appreciation of their fine cultivation when inspecting it closely, and the Japanese people must either have less keen noses than ours or else do not mind the odours, for they appear in no way to affect them as they do ourselves. If a European takes a walk in the rice fields, or "paddy fields" as he calls them, during the hot months he is sure to get severely bitten by mosquitoes, and for Europeans living near the rice areas these pests are a great trial during the summer.

Some Europeans have stated that Japan produces two crops of rice yearly, but this is an erroneous idea, speaking generally. The winter prevents the growing of more than one crop yearly, but there is a part of Japan that does produce two crops, viz., the Tosa province, in one of the Southern islands, but this is owing to the difference of climate there, caused by the Kuro-shio, or "black current," which, flowing northward from the direction of Formosa and the Philippine Islands, warms the Southern and South-eastern coasts of Japan, very much the same way as the Gulf Stream



LOADING RICE BALES ON TO PACK ANIMALS.

warms the coasts of Western Europe; and partly on account of her position geographically, with her long stretch of country from north to south, and the influence of winds and ocean currents, Japan has a large variety of temperature throughout the whole empire.

Rice is very largely grown in the southern islands as well as in the southern part of the main island, where



WINNOWING RICE.

one sees very extensive rice fields, but not in the north. There is a kind of dry rice grown, but this is not of good quality.

The rice grown in Japan is reckoned among the best in the world, and she takes third place among the rice-producing countries, and exports very large quantities. She imports rice as well, and this may sound strange in a rice-growing country; but the quality of her home-grown rice being so very fine, she exports all she can and imports cheaper rice for her home consumption from Korea and China and India that is of inferior quality to her own; but mixed with Japanese rice it is used freely among the poorer classes. Although it is the staple food, other kinds of grain are used as well—millet, barley and wheat are cultivated, and have been grown for food during past centuries in the country. Crops of these are grown during the time when the rice fields lie fallow. Two kinds of potatoes are grown as well for consumption.

Hitherto the rice consumers in Japan have been mostly the people living in the towns, the peasantry looking upon it as somewhat of a luxury. But the classes of consumers have been widening out and the standard of living is growing higher in Japan, and more rice is being consumed in the country than formerly, and this, in addition to the fact that the population is rapidly increasing, means that the question of the production of the food supplies in the country in the future is one that has to be seriously considered, and for these reasons the Japanese Government has considered the question of the increasing demand for food supply very carefully.

Many years ago the institutes for agricultural experiments were established, and these are doing their work well. Much

has been carried out for the rearrangement of the farm fields, in the partitions, and in the irrigation systems of furrows and canals; works of this kind carried out in sufficient extent will enlarge the farm areas very considerably and lessen the necessity for opening up any new land for cultivation. It is by following these methods that Japan is preparing herself to meet the increasing demand for food. Failure of crop and consequent famine have to be met by larger imports, but necessarily cause great distress among the people.

Times and seasons are scrupulously regarded by the peasantry for all their agricultural operations. The terrible storms in the typhoon season are very much dreaded early in September. When the rice is in flower they are very devastating in character when they come, and the rice crop is sure to be injured by them at this period.

The wide, cultivated valleys and the terraced hillsides of Japan are a standing testimony to the patience and industry of the inhabitants throughout the country, and the care and culture that have been bestowed upon them



HULLING RICE IN A MILL.

for long years are plainly apparent even to a casual observer.

A quotation from a Japanese translation will show the spirit in which agricultural pursuits have been carried on from old times in the country, and the importance attached to them: "To select a convenient season in which to employ men for public work, is the rule of good ancient law. Winter is a time of leisure, but during the season between spring and autumn in which they are employed on their farms . . . it is not expedient to take men from their work, or interfere





WHERE HAND LABOUR IS CHEAP.

with them in their efforts to supply food."—(Extract from translation of the Laws of Shotoku Taishi, in "Dai Nikon (A.D. 572-622)").

H. A'C. PENRUDDOCKE.

## AGRICULTURAL NOTES

### THE NATION'S LIVESTOCK.

THOSE who have been affected by the alarming rumours about the growing dearness of meat will study with certain anxiety the First Part of the Agricultural Statistics, 1913, which has just been issued. Before taking the figures in regard to animals, it is worth noting what the Board has to say about the reduction of arable land. In 1912 there was actually an increase of land under the plough, but the falling off last year amounted to the large figure of 277,000 acres, and it was spread over the whole of the English counties. The Board was so astonished at this that special enquiries were made. The majority of those who were consulted gave as a reason the increase in the cost of cultivation and the growing scarcity of qualified labour. The exact words used in the report are certainly worth quoting: "It is pointed out that there is less risk and outlay involved in farming grass land,

and about one-fourth of the correspondents express the opinion that under present conditions arable farming is unremunerative. Dairying and stock-raising tend to attract farmers from corn growing, and one advantage which they afford is that of allowing a larger breadth to be laid down in grass, and a reduction of the labour bill to be effected. It is admitted by some that a larger head of stock cannot thus be carried, and, in fact, that the number may be less than under a mixed system of farming, but the easier and less speculative course is preferred to one which keeps the plough going, but involves more anxiety and outlay, and may in the end prove no more profitable." Having said this, we may now proceed to examine the returns as far as they affect livestock.

**Horses.**—The total number of unbroken horses under one year old appears to have shrunk as compared with the previous year. There were 105,854 returned, a decrease of 1,028. Thus the movement that has been going on steadily since 1906 is being continued, the total having dropped from 122,522 in that year to 105,854 in 1913. The fact that horse breeding has not diminished in Wales only emphasises the diminution that must have taken place in other parts of the

country. In the number of horses used for agriculture there is a very serious decrease of 98,907, and the reduction is shared by every county. It is partly explained by the transfer of horses previously returned as agricultural to the class headed Other Horses. The total number of horses of all kinds returned from the agricultural holdings was 1,402,146 in 1913, or 3,864 less than in 1912. This change is one that has been going on steadily since the introduction of motors.

**Cattle.**—In the number of cattle a decrease of a little over 2 per cent. has to be recorded, the total in 1913 being the lowest returned since 1904. The net reduction of 124,776 in the number of cows and heifers in milk there was a decrease of 141,458; but it is good to notice that there was a considerable increase of cows and heifers in calf, but not in milk; and an increase in the class of other cattle two years old and upwards, though this was more than balanced by a decrease of those one year old and under two. The reporters of the Board were asked to enquire the cause of this serious falling off in the number of cattle; but they do not seem to have been successful in ascertaining it. Some gave the slaughter of calves, either immaturesly or legitimately fattened in consequence of the high price of veal. Another reason is found in the interruption of the supply of Irish store cattle. One or two replies refer to the extension of

small holdings as having reduced the number of stock. A reduction of the number of cows in milk was found in all counties but London. This is a very serious matter, and dairy farmers do not hesitate to ascribe it to the stringency of the conditions under which their work is carried on.

*Sheep.*—In sheep, too, there has been a shrinkage of 923,079 out of a total of 17,130,286. The number of sheep is the smallest on record, and what is perhaps more ominous is that the numbers of breeding ewes and other sheep aged one year and above are the smallest shown since 1893. The reporters of the Board attribute this falling off to the excessive slaughter of lambs, and Mr. Rew, who writes the report, says there seems little doubt that the high price of mutton and lamb was the main cause of depleted flocks. In the south-western counties there was a heavy mortality among sheep during the winter of 1913, and the lambing season was unfavourable. The most serious feature of the returns in regard to sheep is the shrinkage of the number of breeding ewes—from 7,148,109 to 6,699,291.

*Pigs.*—Pigs have diminished even more than the other breeds. The total was 2,102,102, or 394,586 less than 1912, and it is the smallest return since 1901. Several reasons were assigned for this, but we confess that some of them do not apply to one year more than to another. They are the high price of feeding stuffs; the practice of sending the whole milk away from farms (surely this was not begun in 1913); the fattening and sale of breeding stock induced by high prices; and the restrictions on movement necessitated by swine fever. Probably of these reasons the most important is the last mentioned.

Swine fever in many ways acts as a deterrent. It is in itself a danger, and, moreover, it is the cause of expenses being incurred and of general inconvenience. Every district seems to have had about the same amount, except that in Wales the reduction amounted to 21 per cent. One would imagine that with the facilities now offered to acquire land the small holders would be encouraged to keep pigs, which are surely the most profitable stock that can be in their possession. Mr. Rew ends up his report in a serious, not to say gloomy, tone. In giving a table of the gains and losses, he says: "This can only be regarded as an unsatisfactory statement, whatever the causes may be. The net loss of over 83,000 cows and heifers following a loss of 45,000 in the previous year is probably due to several causes already mentioned, and in any case is a somewhat serious fact. The large depletion of the ewe flock, however it may be accounted for by temporary conditions, means a reduction of farmers' capital, of which there is no evidence of replacement in other directions. The loss of pigs, considerable as it is, is in one respect the least serious, inasmuch as it can be the most speedily recovered. Fluctuations of three or four hundred thousand in the pig population from one year to another are not unusual, and although the reduction of breeding sows is large, it may be noted that the number in 1913 was only 20,000 less than in 1909, and that a recovery of 60,000 in one year was made in 1911. Some consolation may perhaps be found in the fact that if the returns of numbers generally indicate a bad year for stock, the returns of prices present a very different appearance."

## LITERATURE.

### A BOOK OF THE WEEK.

FOR thirty years, 1865 to 1895, the figure of David Masson was a familiar one in Edinburgh. During that period he was Professor of Literature at the University, where he succeeded a man whose name is still loved and familiar among Scotsmen, William Edmonstone Aytoun. Masson had qualified himself for the position by many years of strenuous literary work in London and elsewhere. He had been a frequent contributor to the great reviews of the day—*Fraser's*, the *Quarterly*, the *Westminster* and others. He started and was the first Editor of *Macmillan's Magazine*, of which the first number appeared two months before Thackeray's *Cornhill*. In those days he was in the heart of the greatest literary circles, was an intimate friend of Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle, and also of Thackeray, Douglas Jerrold and Mark Lemon. It will perhaps be remembered that when all the world was speaking and writing about the harsh impression left on their minds by Froude's biography of Carlyle, Masson loyally came out with a little volume of recollections in which he showed the great sage in a more genial aspect. It is pleasant, even at this time of day, to re-picture Carlyle and the professors and other learned men at Edinburgh, after the delivery of the famous rectorial address, joining in a chorus, "Stuart Mill on mind and matter," sung to the tune of "Rob's Wife of Aldavalloch." In Edinburgh he exercised great influence over successive generations of students.

His newly issued *Shakespeare Personally* (Smith, Elder) is made up of the Shakespeare Lectures, "which always formed part of my father's course delivered during his tenancy of the Chair of English Literature," says his daughter. The volume would have been valuable under any conceivable circumstances, because it has the Masson qualities—absolute sincerity, minute knowledge, a sane and healthy view of the poet and his works. His study of Shakespeare is the sanest we know. It is completely clear of the chatter, gossip and silly theorisation which disfigure so many recent studies. Professor Masson deduces the characteristics of Shakespeare from what came out of his mind. He states in the very opening the truth that creation in any absolute sense is impossible. Imagination only fuses the impressions that have poured into the mind and moulds them into new combinations and forms. This is the rational standpoint from which Professor Masson worked.

Shakespeare seems to have made money with considerable rapidity. It came in the shape of three distinct kinds of income: His salary as an actor; payments for his dramatic copyright; and his profits as a sharer in two theatres. As early as 1596, when he must still have been a very young man, we find him in the fashion of the age applying through his father to the Heralds' College for the grant of a coat of arms

for the family, and from that time onwards he keeps on investing in houses and in land, in freehold and copyhold, in and about Stratford. He is heard of prosecuting people for debt. In 1604 a certain Philip Rogers for £1 5s. 10d. for corn and malt; and in 1609 a certain John Addenbroke for £6. No other man connected with the London stage, except Edward Alleyn, the founder of Dulwich College, made so large a fortune and husbanded it so well. But he could have been no miser, no mean man. His contemporaries applied to him such epithets as "sweet," "honey-tongued," "mellifluous," "gentle," and among his intimates he was affectionately called "Will."

In conversation he must have been both witty and fluent. Fuller's comparison between him and Ben Jonson is well known:

which two I behold like a Spanish great galleon and an English man-of-war, Master Jonson, like the former, was built far higher in learning; solid but slow in performance. Shakespeare, with the English man-of-war, lesser in bulk, but lighter in sailing, could turn with all tides, tack about, and take advantage of all winds by the quickness of his wit and invention.

These are the biographical data; but Professor Masson is mostly concerned with elucidating the character of that material for drama which the man had amassed. He shows in an eloquent passage that Shakespeare must have been extraordinarily vital. Duller minds get so familiarised with the phenomena of the universe that they fail to keep alive to the wonder of them; but every night the stars seemed to come forth with a new mystery and beauty to the eye of Shakespeare. His mind, too, is ever conscious of the brevity of life, the quick succession of generations, the crowding of incident upon incident; and his work is starred with pregnant and exquisite phrases which have these reflections at the back of them. He reduces the world to the "insubstantial pageant" of a dream; the doings of men resolve themselves into mere struttings and fumings, they "play fantastic tricks before high heaven, that make the angels weep"; and, in a more despairing mood, life is but "a tale, told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." Perhaps the greatest of all Shakespeare's qualities is the splendid balance of his mind. Melancholy might claim others for its own; but with him it is balanced by a joyousness which breaks out clear and pure like a child's laughter. At the most intense moments of his tragedy he is not afraid to show that he can be struck by a sense of the ridiculous. It was the same with the scorn for the vulgar crowd which possessed him. In "Coriolanus" he gives it full expression; never was the mob lashed with more stinging epithets, and throughout all his plays there is ever occurring an ironical or good-humoured jeer at some member of the proletariat—it may be a city watch, a country squire, a tarry-handed shepherd, or a mere clown. But ever Shakespeare remains



aristocratic. Probably that is why he was so obnoxious to the democratic soul of Tolstoy. Yet here again the balance comes in the shape of unbounded sympathy with poverty, suffering, misfortune; all these he touches with an exquisite tenderness and compassion. Professor Masson very finely describes "The Tempest" as the culminating point in Shakespeare's reverie of the world:

What is the magical Island in that play, somewhere in an unmapped sea, with its two human beings only father and daughter, upon it, till there is the intrusion and commotion of the shipwrecked crew wandering over it; but with also its sprightly Ariel and its brutal Caliban, and all the visionary enchantments and aerial music thereto belonging,—what is this but Shakespeare's last symbolic representation of human life as a whole? There is the Island, full of sights and sounds, mystical, magical, beautiful, very real in a sense; but the waves ring it round on all sides, and the eternal war of the immeasurable sea! And what is Prospero, the lord of the Island, the wise and good magician who has found a refuge in it, has conquered it by his spells, and can rule all within it to his will? Shakespeare himself, we say at once.

It was written at the end of his comparatively brief day, when he was looking forward to a life of retirement at Stratford, when the magic wand would be broken

And deeper than did ever plummet sound  
I'll drown my book.

Professor Masson, in his own inimitable painstaking way, showed how the boyhood of Shakespeare at Stratford had impressed itself on his memory, so that names were transferred from the little town to the most unlikely person and the scenes which he produced in those immortal pictures of Nature which so lavishly appeared in the plays, must largely have been memories from the little hills, the lanes and woods, that lie about Stratford. It would be easy to go on for ever about this theme; not that there is much new to be said about it, but Professor Masson's lectures, which proved so inspiring when they were delivered, now rekindle old thoughts and feelings and stir a new interest in the greatest not only of English, but of modern poets.

#### INCISED EFFIGIES ON ALABASTER.

**The Incised Effigies of Staffordshire**, by Andrew Oliver. (Sprague and Co.)

THIS large book, with its forty plates, is a fine and thorough piece of work. Moreover, Mr. Oliver strikes out a new line, which ought to be followed up in three or four other counties. Specialising in particular details of our old churches has been much the fashion of late years, both among antiquaries and publishers, but incised slabs, with their multiplicity of designs, as well as outline effigies in the later mediæval days, have been left severely alone; in fact, we are not aware that any monograph, small or large, has been written on any branch of the subject since the late Dr. Cutts brought out his "Manual of Incised Slabs" so long as 1846. This was a good book for the date when it was written, but further research has made it quite out of date. Mr. Oliver confines his attention exclusively to that form of memorial of the departed which was engraved on slabs of alabaster reproducing, with more or less crudeness, the human figure. The supply of easily worked alabaster of such size as made it suitable for their purpose, as well as for the more delicate sculpturing of reredoses and figured panels, came chiefly from Chellaston in the south of Derbyshire. Hence it comes to pass that the incised effigies are chiefly to be found in Derbyshire, or in such counties as Staffordshire and Nottinghamshire, which are closely contiguous. Such effigies were at one time far more numerous than they are at the present day, and it was high time that those which are extant should be rescued from oblivion. As a rule, these slabs were placed on the floors of chancels and chantry chapels, or in the alleys of nave and aisle. Exposed to constant foot tread, the figures and marginal inscriptions became more or less illegible, and the rashness of the earlier Victorian restoration caused the destruction and removal of large numbers which still retained much of historical or genealogical value. Such slabs were occasionally recut and sculptured out of all semblance to memorials, to form sanctuary steps, panellings, or even pulpits, while still larger numbers were thrown aside in fragmentary condition to aid in forming rockeries within parsonage gardens. The comparatively few examples that yet remain in a fairly perfect condition, either in Derbyshire, Staffordshire or elsewhere, are those large slabs which have been affixed to the top of raised table tombs, or have been removed from such position, and placed against the walls, as at Darley Dale. Staffordshire still retains forty-six of these incised effigies, thirty-nine of which are illustrated on a large scale by Mr. Oliver; the five other instances are too much mutilated or obliterated to be worth reproducing. They extend in date from about 1360 to 1650, and are most numerous c. 1500. The lines cut in the alabaster have been filled up with pitch or mastic, so that the effigies stand out with distinctness from the white background. These figures, though not nearly so attractive as the actual sculptured effigies in either alabaster or stone, are often wonderfully clear in the display of details of costume, and specially of armour. Two bishops of Lichfield occur at Eccleshall and four of priests in different parts of the county. Fourteen are concerned with civilians in long fur-trimmed gowns. Both knights and civilians are to be found accompanied by wives and groups of children; two instances display two wives, and in one case three wives. The attempts at portraiture are obvious, and occasionally distinctly humorous. The military effigies form a valuable and easily read chapter on the various periods. They begin with the émail period in a slab of 1403 at Maussyn Ridueare and end with two valuable examples of the tabard period at Blithfield; ten display somewhat striking

points in the mail period, and the remaining seven variations of the plate period. The most curious and interesting of all these plates is that which depicts Lewis Bagot, 1534, and his three wives at Blithfield. The slab is in fair condition; it rests upon a table tomb in the chancel. The knight, in heraldic tabard, with head resting upon helmet and crest, is depicted between two of his wives, who are similarly clad, and wear the pedimental headdress with veils, but their features are strikingly different. Beneath one of the wives is a group of eleven children, and beneath the other one is a group of eight. Between the knight and the wife on the right appears the head, with long hair, of a most childish-looking third wife, which we believed, when inspecting it some years ago, to have been an after insertion. This much-married knight is said to have had five wives, the youngest of whom survived. Mr. Oliver might with advantage in this case have gleaned a few biographical details. This book cannot fail to be of great service to all interested in the family lore of Staffordshire, and will serve to elucidate pedigrees. Hardly a single county family of note fails to find one or more instances of portraiture in this remarkable work. We have nothing but praise for the excellence of the plates and for the general accuracy of the brief descriptive paragraphs. There is, however, a certain laxity in the letterpress; a list of nine errata has been inserted in the book, but this list might easily have been doubled.

**THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE OF ALL COUNTY HISTORIES.**  
**The Victoria History of the Counties of England.** Bedfordshire, three vols.; Surrey, four vols.; Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, five vols. (Constable.)

THERE is no enterprise in the publishing annals of our generation, save the Dictionary of National Biography and the New English Dictionary, which can be compared with the Victoria County History. Begun in the reign of Queen Victoria, the scheme was so vast that there were many who feared that it might collapse under its own weight, but the courage of the publishers and the skill of the editor have triumphed over all obstacles. Three counties have been completed and many more are now on the point of being finished. It is impossible for the reviewer to give more than a general outline of the contents of the twelve sumptuous volumes which tell the story of Bedfordshire, Surrey and Hampshire with the Isle of Wight; but the four Surrey volumes may be briefly analysed by way of showing that no county history has even been projected on so comprehensive a scale. The work is produced under the general editorship of Mr. William Page, who is admirably equipped for his responsible task with antiquarian knowledge which is both wide and deep. The Surrey volumes are issued under the immediate editorship of Mr. H. E. Malden, who deals with such important elements of the county's history as the text of the Surrey Domesday, while Mr. Horace Round writes an introduction on the same subject. Mr. Malden is also responsible for the political, ecclesiastical and military history of the county, and Mr. Reginald A. Smith for the Anglo-Saxon remains. The Rev. J. C. Cox describes the religious houses, Mr. A. F. Leach handles the history of the schools, and Mr. Montague Giuseppe sets out the story of many fascinating industries old and new. Ecclesiastical architecture at large is in the good hands of Mr. Philip Johnston, and domestic buildings are dealt with by Mr. Ralph Neville. Nearly half of the whole work is occupied by a full topographical account of every parish, the contributors to which are far too numerous to mention. It is necessary to point out, however, the extreme value of the research work which has been done by women. Indeed, nearly all the records of manorial descents have been collected by a staff of ladies whose archaeological work is of a very high quality. Many buildings of special note have been described by such experts as Mr. C. R. Peers, Mr. Murray Kendall and Mr. Harold Brakespear. The heraldry is in the main the work of Mr. Dorling. The natural history of the county occupies an important place, and it has been cared for by an array of experts such as Mr. Lamplugh, Mr. Lydekker, Dr. Boulenger and others whose names are household words in the scientific world. The development of sport is also chronicled by such eminent authorities as Sir Home Gordon, who, needless to say, deals with county cricket. Although many names of distinguished contributors are mentioned above, there are dozens more whose valuable work deserves full recognition. Only the limitations of space forbid us to make more detailed acknowledgment of the very able army of experts who have contributed to these fine volumes. The Bedfordshire and Hampshire series is the work of no less skilful hands. When all is said, the matter of most enduring and widest value is that contained in the topographical descriptions. The parishes are grouped alphabetically in the Hundreds to which they belong. The records of each parish begin with a general description, proceed to the history of the manors within their borders, and so to the church, of which a full detailed description is given in all cases. The volumes are richly illustrated by maps, plans and photographs. The antiquary will be specially grateful for the historical plans such as that of Farnham Castle, printed in eight colours, which was the work of Mr. C. R. Peers, and that of Waverley Abbey, in ten colours, drawn by Mr. Harold Brakespear. It is inevitable that anyone who already knows the quality of the work which has been put into these histories will feel that our review is inadequate, and gives but a faint idea of their enduring value. We therefore conclude our sketch of a great undertaking with the hope that this great work will be strongly supported. Everyone who values the preservation of records, which are none the less of national importance because they are gathered in local volumes, will appreciate the need of adequate public recognition. It would be a great misfortune if the progress of this monumental undertaking were to be checked by lack of adequate support. The cost of the volumes, a guinea and a half each, is studiously moderate. When the present prices of the old county histories, such as Chauncy's *Hertfordshire*, Ormerod's *Cheshire* and Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, are remembered, and it is also borne in mind how fragmentary and necessarily inaccurate they are in many particulars, such a low price as six guineas for a complete history of Surrey is a notable tribute to the public spirit of those who control this great enterprise. We can do no more than wish it the abundant success it merits.



## ENGLISH PORTRAITURE.

FROM whichever point of view we look at Mr. Collins Baker's monumental work upon English Portraiture—Lely and the Stuart Portrait Painters: A Study of English Portraiture before and after Van Dyck (Philip Lee Warner)—we gladly pronounce it a masterpiece. It is valuable alike to the critic of the fine arts and to the student of history. Not merely does it reconstruct the annals of portrait painting; it uncovers many a curious chapter in the history of our English manners. The innumerable canvases which record the progress of distinguished families have hitherto been ascribed to Lely or Kneller, as though, after Van Dyck, these were the only craftsmen who followed their trade in England. But Mr. Baker, with tireless patience, has disengaged the pupil from the master. With infinite tact he has differentiated native art from foreign. And he has restored to their pride of place many an English painter who hitherto has been dimly surmised to have worked in the studio of Fleming or Dutchman. It may seem something of a reproach to England—that for some centuries she took her painters where she found them. Her own citizens were too busy fighting or tilling the fields to practise the arts which embellish life. The Wars of the Roses denied to England the leisure necessary to the cultivation of her own genius. When Henry VIII. came to the throne, he could satisfy his ambition of art-patronage in no other way than by summoning Holbein to his Court. Zacharo was brought from Tuscany to set upon canvas Queen Elizabeth in all her splendour. And the Kings of the house of Stuart followed faithfully the illustrious example of the Tudors. With James I.'s accession, foreign painters flocked to England. It may be supposed that these painters, who found a pleasant prospect in the high road to England, did not take their art too seriously. They were sound, honest craftsmen, intent upon making what fortune they might by painting the portraits of wealthy and distinguished English men and women. They came from Belgium, like Ghaeraedts and Van Somer, or from Holland, like Mytens and Lely. And finding their home where they found their profit, they loyally served the country of their adoption.

There is one point upon which Mr. Baker insists, perhaps too vehemently. He detects in the work of the painters whom he discusses a quality of distinct nationality, a difference not of technique but of temper, which, says he, very properly, is "the touchstone of a portrait." But even if we admit that it is temper which gives a certain character to this work, or that we cannot always detect in it a clear trace of national

temper. A painter, no doubt, who works with any sincerity puts something of himself as well as much of his sitter upon his canvas. Imagine, for instance, the same man painted by Mr. Sargent and Mr. Cope. You would not recognise in the results anything more intimate to the man himself than his coat. But the difference of quality would not depend upon the fact that Mr. Cope is an Englishman and that Mr. Sargent was born of American parents. A hundred Americans might cross the seas without catching a whiff of Mr. Sargent's peculiar manner. What gives to a portrait of Mr. Sargent's painting a special character is the quality of Mr. Sargent's own vision and analysis. And we should come to a similar conclusion after looking at the splendid series of portraits which Mr. Baker presents. One group is separated from another by a difference of temper, but the difference is less national than personal. Sir Robert Newdigate looks like an Englishman of the Restoration, though he has passed through

the hands of that eminent Dutchman, Sir Peter Lely. Yet as we look at the portraits assembled in Mr. Baker's book, we cannot underrate the influence of school upon the painters of his choice. Mr. Baker very properly groups the lesser men about the master who dominated them, and shows us plainly that the value of apprenticeship was appreciated in the seventeenth century at its full worth. Tradition, indeed, was still omnipotent. The vain search for originality had not yet begun, and many a man of talent was content to carry on the craft of the master who had taught him the elements, without any hope or wish to discover a new path for himself. Thus were the idiosyncracies of temper sternly controlled; thus was the art of painting saved from the pitfalls of a vain eccentricity. The most valuable part of



SIR PETER LE LY: LOUISE, DUCHESS OF PORTSMOUTH. C. 1670.

Mr. Baker's work is his recovery of our English painters. The prowess of Lely and Kneller has always been acknowledged. They have been permitted to wear all the laurels of their age. But they had forerunners and they had scholars, and of these not a few were of English blood. It is characteristic of our modesty that while we admire the masterpieces of Dutch art we ignore the masterpieces of English art. Who knows the English portrait-painters of the seventeenth century even by name? William Dobson is not wholly obscure, since he may be seen in the National Gallery. Here we have discovered to our vision Gilbert Jackson, a sound pedestrian workman, who set up on canvas for all time the baffling features of Robert Burton, the anatomist of Melancholy. Then there is Robert Walker, who painted Cromwell and Hampden, Faithorne and Evelyn—a painter esteemed in his own day, and in ours half forgotten. And John Hayls, hitherto a mere name in Pepys'

"Diary," is here discussed, together with all the portraits ascribed to him by tradition. But it is Joseph Michael Wright, a pupil of George Jamesone, and a rival of Lely, who cut a far greater figure in the world than any of his compatriots, and the chapter which Mr. Baker devotes to his achievements is as luminous as any chapter in his book. And the thoroughness with which the author has performed his task is the more remarkable because he is (so to say) mapping an uncharted ocean and finding his way through unknown and perilous seas.

The most highly accomplished and most fortunate of them all, English or foreign, was Sir Peter Lely, a prince among men and painters. He did not yield even to Van Dyck himself in the splendour of his fame or in the magnificence of his life. Born in Haarlem in 1618, the son of a man who kept a perfume shop, he came to England in the train of William of Orange, and thenceforth his prosperity was assured. He followed the fortunes of the King with the loyalty of a true-born cavalier. He painted Charles I. and the Duke of York during the tragic days of the King's detention in 1647. Lovelace dedicated to him a set of verses appropriate for the occasion:

Thou sorrow canst design without  
a tear,  
And with the Man his Beauty,  
Hope or Feare,  
So that th' amazed world shall hence-  
forth finde

None but my Lilly ever drew a minde.  
And no sooner did Charles I.'s  
head fall upon the block than  
Lely is found buying pictures  
at the King's sale, and doing  
his best to find favour with the  
Commonwealth. Obviously it  
was his sound intention to  
make the best he could of both  
worlds, and he prospered under  
Oliver as he had prospered  
under Charles I. But the  
Restoration gave him and his  
talent their real opportunity.  
Like himself, his art shone  
with a finer brilliance in a  
gracious, pleasure-loving  
Court. He served the King  
in more than one amiable  
fashion. He lent him money  
and he painted his mis-  
tresses. And as we look back  
upon his work we readily ac-  
knowledge that no Court ever  
found a painter more closely to  
its taste and talent. To look at  
Lely's pictures is, as it were, to  
read the Memoirs of Grammont  
in another dimension. Here  
are the courtiers, gay and non-  
chalant; here are the ladies,  
beautiful and intriguing, who  
gave Hamilton the matter of  
his delectable anecdotes. But  
let it not be thought that the  
beauties of the Court engrossed  
the time and the genius of Lely.  
The noble series of Admirals,  
now at Greenwich, is from his



SIR PETER LE LY: LORD AND LADY CORNBURY.



SIR PETER LE LY: LADY ELIZABETH PERCY. C. 1665.

hand, and perhaps it is in the portraiture of men that he indisputably distinguished himself. So he grew in repute and prosperity. "A mighty proud man he is, and full of State," says Pepys. He died in 1680, after twenty years of friendship with Charles II., of an apoplexy,

when he was painting the drapery of a portrait of the Duchess of Somerset. He left to his daughters ample property in Lincolnshire, and to the world a name of gaiety and good omen. What more could the most fortunate of painters hope or expect?

## THE GUANO BIRDS OF PERU.—IV.

THE pelican's thoughts begin to turn to matrimony about the month of October. At least, to the onlooker this appears to be the situation, from the fact that couples are to be seen then "keeping company"; but the male—who is not easily re-

cognisable from his woman-kind—indulges *coram publico* in few or any of those flirtatious ways and demonstrations preliminary to the married state which are so conspicuous among many other species of birds. At the end of November, at all events, I found large numbers busy building nests, and a few others already incubating eggs that were still fresh. Gosse, in his "Birds of Jamaica," records the Brown pelican as nesting in trees, and Mr. Chapman, in his delightful book already cited, quotes from Dr. Bryant's observations on the Florida Coast in 1858, that the same species nested on the tops of the mangrove trees, and states, on his own account that in 1898, there were still mangroves—with in some instances as many as seven nests on a single tree—to afford many of the birds "the arboreal type of nesting site characteristic of this species; but the birds which could not secure a building lot in a tree were forced to place their houses upon the ground." Molina's pelican—a very near relation of the Florida and Jamaica species—builds invariably on the ground. As along the latitudes of Peru and Northern Chile (to which its range is confined) there has not existed a tree for probably hundreds of centuries, its present nesting habits must be equally ancient. Since this species is unknown from any other region it can now retain few, if any, echoes of its original—if original it be—arboreal nidification. My opinion is that the pelican's practice of sometimes building in trees was and is but an acquired habit, for, apart from its weight and size, its short legs and the complete webbing between all its four toes speak of terrestrial rather than arboreal nesting aptitudes.

During the breeding season the pelicans never nest on the mainland or the small rocks or islets close to it, but collect in vast flocks upon the islands which stand separated by some dozen miles or so of sea at least. Their largest colonies are to be found on the Ballestes and Chincha groups off Pisco, in Mid Peru, and

the Lobos Islands (especially Lobos de Afuera), off the Desert of Sechura, in the north. They occupy the more level areas on the pampa in communities of many thousands, with two or three nests to the square metre, situated often in the centre of a vaster crowd of Bougainville's cormorants,



Henry O. Forbes.

YOUNG PELICAN NOT YET ABLE TO FLY.

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AWAITING THE RETURN OF THEIR PARENTS WITH FOOD.

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with whom they live on terms of perfect amity. In the midst of this black field their large size and lighter colour make them very conspicuous objects, and somehow the areas occupied by them suggest to one the idea of their representing the aristocratic quarter of a great city, composed of large private or public edifices and (when the pelicans elevate their long beaks into the air) steepled cathedrals in the midst of endless streets of sordid dwellings. In such a vast concourse of birds there is never any repose; constant waves of movement surge across it; incessant fanning of wings and never-ending fluttering about and shifting of places. To watch such a scene from some point of vantage—as I could when anchored off the Chincha Islands—was a ceaseless source of interest and pleasure. There was always occurring some new incident, affording fresh insight to the psychology of these great avian communities. As there does not occur anywhere on the coast a particle of vegetation—grass, sticks, straw, leaves—suitable for nest building, the pelicans have to use what lies within their reach, chiefly sand. It is not improbable that this is really the birds' original building material. Unfortunately, the islands are very rocky, and the amount of even this material is almost too limited "to go round." It is quite a remarkable spectacle to see a company of pelicans who have discovered a "soft place" busy shovelling sand and small pebbles into their capacious carpet bag till it bulges to its utmost capacity, by scraping their lower mandibles sideways along the ground. It was amusing to watch them carrying their neck thrust back to its limit so as to bring their centre of gravity as much as possible over their legs, and running awkwardly in a manner suggestive of a gravid female, all the time beating their wings vigorously in order to gain impetus sufficient to raise

themselves into the air and so to their nesting sites. It is an amazing fact that they can rise and fly at all, carrying a weight so heavy, and poised so far forward, without overbalancing themselves. That it is a difficult performance is evident from the measured manner of their flight and apparently of the uncomfortable posture of the neck. In all pelicans, however, the shoulder girdle is very strongly articulated together, the merrythought being solidly ossified to the keel of the breast-bone.

If when the burdened bird is flying overhead some gesture be made which alarms it, or some fancied terrestrial danger attracts its attention, control of the temporal and masseter muscles is apparently lost, with the result that the mandible instantly drops and the entire cargo is precipitated to the ground. As it generally consists of numerous pebbles, woe betide the unlucky pedestrian beneath, for such a shower dropped upon his head from a height of some fifty feet or so is quite lawfully provocative of—anyway, very exasperating, especially when, as almost invariably happens, the anal sphincter fails at the same moment, generally affording effective proof of how excellent a marksman Molina's pelican can be. How many bucketfuls are required to form a nest I was unable to estimate. When the circumvallate rampart of sand, however, is completed, the interior is lined with feathers from the pelican's own body and as many as it can collect from other sources. The bird's maternal anxiety for a comfortable nursery leads, it is to be feared, to numerous and oft-times defiant breaches of the moral injunction, "Thou shalt not steal," against their own kin as well as their neighbours, the cormorants. Unlike the latter species, which becomes less timid after it has begun to incubate, the pelican retains almost all the nervousness for which it is



Henry O. Forbes.

YOUNG PELICANS AFTER FIRST LEAVING THE NEST.

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usually noted, notwithstanding the possession of a beak that ought to dismay the bravest intruder if used, which it is not, with some courage. It is altogether a poor defender of its rights, and can be made the sport of foes which it could dispose of within its mandibular sac with the greatest ease. Of this trait in their disposition I witnessed a good example. Near my laboratory on North Chincha Island the

"cuervos de mar" (*Phalacrocorax virgatus*) roosted thickly on the cliffs of a small headland whose pampa was also nightly frequented by large flocks of pelicans. Observing that the former species also specially delighted to roost on the yards and rigging of the various ships stranded on the rocks, I erected a long, horizontal, experimental spar a few yards from the cliff edge, on a convenient spot which chanced to fall within the pelicans' "nighting" area, in the hope of inducing these "seacrows" to accept this comfortable roost, under which their guano might be collected instead of being lost in the sea. The pelicans, on returning home on the first evening, were about to alight at their usual quarters; but on espying the unwonted apparition, their leader, after circling over it several times, led his companions to some other sleeping place *à la belle étoile*. Every night for weeks the same thing happened, and even after a year they had not assured themselves that their bogey was quite harmless. Mr. Chapman has recorded a similar case of timidity in the Brown pelican in Florida. After Pelican Island was created a Federal

will, without any trepidation, crowd closely round the native fishing boats as soon as they are anchored, as well as frequently attend them at sea, and fight for the offal thrown overboard—often, indeed, almost seizing it from the boatmen's hands. They seem to consider men in boats to be natural adjuncts of the sea, or the shore unrelated to mankind in general; but an ordinary landsman, with or without

his camera, is something entirely different and to be avoided.

In the nest are laid three or four large white eggs, whose exact incubation period is uncertain, but it probably lasts from forty to forty-five days. The chicks emerge as blind, naked, wobbly, gelatinous squabs. During these weeks the nests are



Henry O. Forbes.

NAKED PELICAN SQUABS, SHOWING FUTURE DISPOSITION OF THE FEATHERS.

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constantly ravaged. Crowds of dominican gulls, which continually hover over the breeding areas of the different islands in the most daring manner, seize upon and carry off any egg that may become exposed, despite the threatening gaping and snapping of their owner's beak. The vultures, too, they have always with them, watchful and eager, who hurry up the moment the gulls are seen to have fallen in "luck's way." They are themselves, to their great disgust doubtless, unable, owing to the narrowness of their gape, to seize an egg so large as a pelican's; but the resources of vulturedom are equal to the occasion, for by menacing the escaping gulls, the *bonne bouche* secured by them drops to the ground, where its contents are instantly secured by the stronger thief. To vast numbers of the



Henry O. Forbes.

PELICAN SQUABS AT THE NEST.

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Reserve, "a large sign" "proclaiming its population to be wards of the Government" was set up. This created such uneasiness among the birds that they entirely deserted their old quarters, and only when "the offending boards" were removed did they return to their heritage to build their homes. Yet during the non-breeding season, when groups of pelicans swim about for hours just outside the surf, they

squabs, though not carrion, these loathsome birds help themselves—any customary habit to the contrary notwithstanding.

The new-born chicks of Molina's pelican, instead of being "livid black," *vide* Mr. Chapman, like those of the very similarly plumaged Brown pelican, are entirely white—a remarkable difference considering the close affinity of the two species. In their naked condition they afford excellent



studies of pelican pterylosis, for then every feather papilla on the body stands out with conspicuous distinctness. In a day or two, however, from these points neossopile downs begin to sprout and, within a couple of weeks, the creatures are entirely enswathed in a short white vesture. They are but a few hours old before they begin to intimate that they have an appetite in shrill, harsh squeals of surprising strength and continuity, which, issuing simultaneously from a thousand throats, create a ceaseless pandemonium audible from afar. Unbroken guard is kept either on or close to the nest by one parent while the other is at sea foraging, on whose return its partner sets out on a similar errand. The heavy labour entailed by this onerous duty may be estimated by the fact that for their personal sustenance the parents must each catch from twelve to fifteen pounds of fish daily; and when there are three young in the nest, about an equal quantity must for some time be provided daily for their needs. The amount they are supplied with after they leave the nest and before they can fly must be many times greater.

The manner in which young pelicans are fed is well known. The parent gapes its great portals, and the young ones—often all three at once—thrust their beaks and, till they are about a fortnight old, almost their whole body into the pouch, and gobble down what they find there prepared for them. For their earlier days this provision consists of half-digested material, but when their own stomachic powers increase, their meal is composed of one or two entire sardinas or peche reyes. When the nestlings have attained their first wing plumage—at what exact age is doubtful—they leave their various homes for good and, associating in thousands (being still unable for yet a long while to fly), they wander about the fields of vacated nests, over the rocks, or by the verge of the shore, awaiting the periodical return of their parents from the sea with their load of fishes. These are now distributed, of the same size—often from one to one and a half pounds in weight—and in the same fresh condition as the parents themselves consume them. The moment any parent alights it is mobbed by all the nearest hungry youngsters, whether they be her—or his—own lawful issue or not. Whether the children know their fathers and mothers or they their brood is difficult for a watcher to determine. The presumption, however, is that like the generality of parents they have some way of identifying their own flesh and blood. Anyhow, they will often deny to one group of claimants the right of entry to their storehouse which they grant without demur to another.

Pelicans appear to present a perfectly unconcerned face to all the affairs of life; and seem to be by no means model parents. Be their eggs stolen, or their nestlings trodden to

death or devoured, their equanimity remains undisturbed. After the young quit the nest for a peripatetic life no parental care seems extended to them except in the matter of food, and the numerous individuals observed with dislocated legs and fractured wings indicate that they come by many mischances. Nor is any protective aid afforded these inexperienced juveniles against the astute bands of robber gulls which live sumptuously by the illicit toll they exact all day long from the vast nursery. As soon as the youngsters have been fed they retire in small groups to some quiet spot to digest their meal. This is the opportunity the dominicans have been waiting for. Their tactics are for a certain number of them to surround the innocents on the ground and keep viciously jabbing them, while others in the air, wildly screaming, incessantly stoop at them, often striking their heads. The utterly scared and bewildered pelicans, in a bid for escape, lighten ship by disgorging their last meal. A cry of exultation, which they cannot restrain, escapes the dominicans as they descend like lightning upon this unearned feast. To their dismay, however, it attracts also all of their fellows with a hearing who happen to be unemployed, whose attempts to share in the plunder result in an entertaining series of free fights.

Molina's pelican does not attain its full plumage, it is believed, at least three years, in each of which it appears in a new costume, most observable in the colour of the neck, and of the lower surface of the body. In its first year the hind neck and breast are snowy white; during its second season the hind neck becomes sooty-grey and the breast spotted with brown; while in the third, the full nuptial livery is donned, consisting of a jet black hind neck, a dark brown breast striped with pure white. This species never develops the curious deciduous horny knob on the culmen of the beak which appears on that of the White pelican at the beginning of the nesting season. It is not, however, only when they assume this final plumage that they first take upon themselves parental duties. On mid-Chincha Island, in 1913, I saw birds in all three attires incubating side by side.

From the hour that the pelican adventures from the egg till it can fare forth to the sea on its own account it has to face a fierce struggle for existence, in which so great a number succumb that it is surprising, except they live to a long age, that their colonies continue so large as they are. It is to be hoped that while so many "rookeries" of this splendid bird are vanishing before the occupation of their territories through the extension of cultivation or the spread of population, those on the Peruvian coast may be protected, even more closely than now, not only for the benefit of the agriculturists of that Republic, but to be a perennial delight to every bird-lover who visits the coasts of the Western Pacific Ocean.

HENRY O. FORBES.

## KENNEL NOTES.

### THE HORTON HALL MARK.

WHEN the history of the flat-coated retriever comes to be written in full, considerable space will be occupied by the strain that Mr. L. Allen-Shuter has made famous

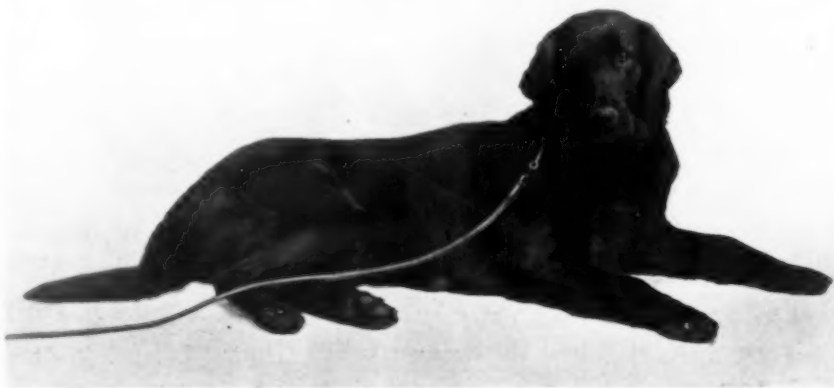
through the familiar prefix of "Horton." The influence upon the breed of Champion Horton Rector and Champion Darenth, both bred by Mr. Allen-Shuter, is incalculable. The great Champion High Legh Blarney was a grandson of Rector. On this account, apart from her merits, no doubt her owner doubly appreciates

Horton Rosette, the charming bitch illustrated this week, she being by Blarney out of Ruby. Owing to her hard work with the gun, Rosette has been little exhibited, but when

she is she is difficult to beat. At the Kennel Club in October she was first in open and limit under Mr. Reginald Cooke, and a month later Mr. Harding Cox gave her similar honours at the Alexandra Palace. Ears and head are perfect, and her

body, legs and feet are all of the best. She moves with that liberty so desirable in a gun-dog. Fortunately she is as good in the field as in the showing. Indeed, Mr. Allen-Shuter considers her the best retriever in this respect that he has ever had. He broke her himself, and this season he has had the pleasure of seeing her

placed third at the Whitmore trials, and fourth at the Retriever Society's trials at Newport, Isle of Wight. In conjunction with a tender mouth she has wonderful brains and keenness of nose,



HORTON ROSETTE.



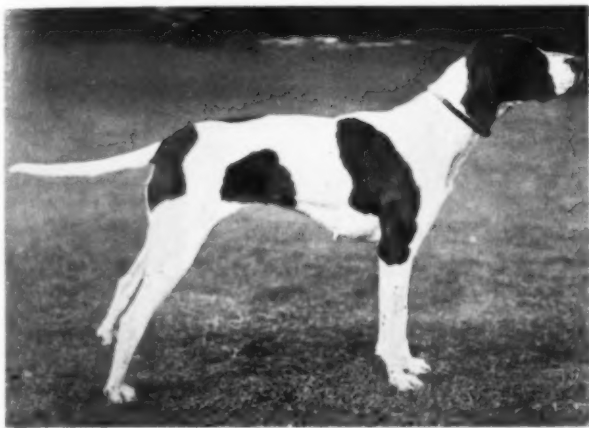
and she rarely misses even the most difficult of runners. She is a splendid water dog, especially at ducks.

#### A PROMISING POINTER.

Mr. D. Baillie of Garbethill, Castlecary, has as keen an eye as anyone for a gun dog of any sort, and he evidently was wide awake when he induced Mr. Eggleston to part with his pointer, Sydney. In a large maiden class of twelve at the Kennel Club Show he was placed first, and also did well in a stronger competition still. He was put down somewhat light in condition; but there was no getting away from his merits, and when he has furnished fully it will need a good one to stop him. As it was, he was awarded the silver vase at the Crystal Palace for the best puppy or novice of all breeds. A fortnight earlier he secured the challenge certificate at Edinburgh.

#### A GREAT SHOW POINTER.

Anyone interested in seeing livestock of the best can have his taste gratified in various directions on paying a visit to Mr.



CHAMPION RUMNEY REFRAIN.

A. R. Fish at Holme Mead, Hutton, near Preston, for this gentleman's hackneys are as familiar to horse lovers as are his dogs to those in the kennel world; his dairy is on the most approved modern lines, and in several varieties of poultry he is right at the top. Concerning our own special subject, of course everybody has seen or heard about his curly-coated retrievers, and had it not been for his staunchness this sub-variety would have been in a very bad way. Indeed, Mr. Fish, with praiseworthy zeal, stands out as the champion of the weak, for has he not also a fine team of Dalmatians? The old carriage dog of our boyhood has gone from bad to worse of recent days, in which respect he can sympathise with his kennel friends, the curlies. Within the last few years Mr. Fish reached the determination to get together a grand collection of pointers, in which his selection has been so wise that he cannot well fail to achieve success.



SHARDLOW SORCERESS.

NANCY.

ARUNDELL DUCHESS.

SMITH.



A FAMOUS LABRADOR: TYPE OF WHITMORE.

everywhere. Mr. J. T. Egglestone bred her in 1909, and on coming out she proceeded to make a hobby of collecting championships. To such profit, indeed, that in 1910 she was a champion with something to spare.

#### SHARDLOW SORCERESS.

Ever since I can remember field spaniels have been strongly held by ladies, many of whom have had leading kennels during the last fifteen years. Among the successful exhibitors of the present day is Mrs. Lethbridge Farmer of Shardlow Rectory, Derby. Her good bitch, Shardlow Sorceress, is illustrated this week. The year before last at the Ladies' Kennel Association Open Show she won a first and second, and was also awarded

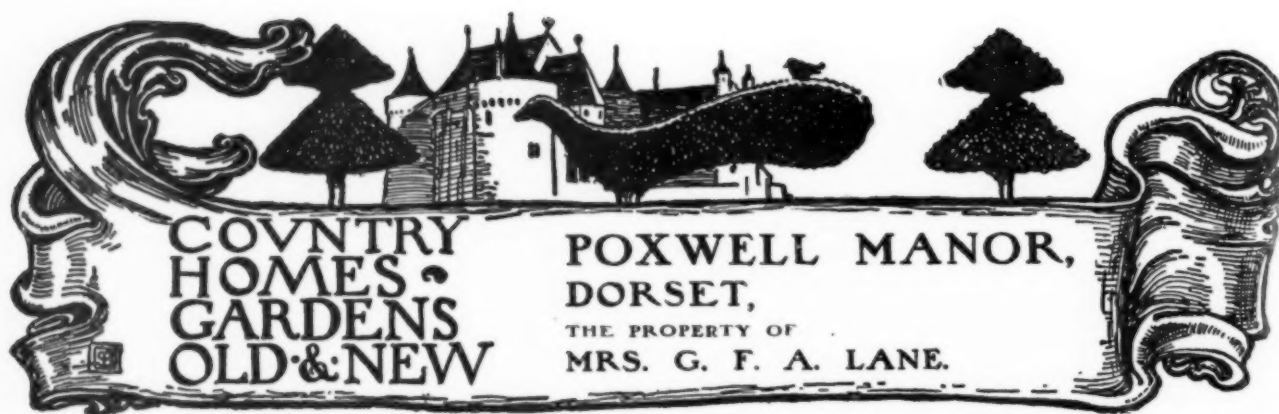


MR. D. BAILLIE'S POINTER SYDNEY.

the challenge cup. This cup was again won at the autumn Ladies' Kennel Association Members' Show by Shardlow Solon. As the trophy is for the best novice bred by an exhibitor, Mrs. Farmer is to be congratulated. Now that a more work-

manlike type of field spaniel is being introduced it will not be surprising if the breed receives greater attention than in the past. Nancy and Arundell Duchess are another useful brace belonging to the same lady.

A. CROXTON  
SMITH.



THE two neighbouring manor houses lying sheltered near the southern chalk Downs, between Dorchester and the sea, Herrington and Poxwell, have had a very different fate. Herrington, well cared for by the long line of the Williams, received only too much attention in the first years of the nineteenth century; while Poxwell, which passed from hand to hand when the line of its builder died out, has suffered neglect and desertion, and become a fallen place. But the fallen place has never been tricked out in the succeeding architectural fashions, and keeps about its walls and walled garden airs of the early seventeenth century.

The interest of Poxwell is for the passer-by, and he who runs may read it on the road that runs from Weymouth into Wareham highway at Warmwell Cross. Near Osmington, George III. is seen cut in chalk upon the green down, while Poxwell, on a down just beyond the village, has a small stone circle. In Domesday, Poxeswell belonged to the great Abbey of Cerne, whose stately gatehouse of yellow stone still stands among the trees of the Abbey Farm, and with the abbey it remained until the dissolution of the religious houses. Early in Elizabeth's reign the manor was granted to Thomas Howard, and by him not many years later it was sold to a merchant, John Henning.

John Henning was succeeded by his son John, Sheriff of Dorset, in 1609. This John's son, Richard, who was living in 1623, was possibly the builder, or his son Edmund; but in 1644-53 the estate was sequestered, and the sequestration-book notes that a "Mr. Henning" died in Corfe Castle. Edmund's son, Henry Henning, who died in 1699, left a daughter who married Thomas Trenchard of Wolverton; and George Trenchard gave it to his third son, John, who left the manor and estates of Poxeswell and Ringstead to his great nephew, John Trenchard Pickard. The house tells its own date on the gatehouse (1634), a gatehouse *pour rive*, if defence were its aim; but this was not one of the old and massive outliars of the house. The little hexagonal building, like a casket of brick, with its open archway and sharp, red-tiled, lichen-covered roof, its semi-circular angle shafts finishing in thimble-topped pinnacles, seems built rather to amuse and delight, and to break the red brick wall of the forecourt. The single upper room, which is reached by a flight of stone steps, is traditionally known as the Fool's Chamber, as it is said that the fool of the family was allowed a last shot at the departing guest from the window overlooking the road, a place of vantage. A straight path leads from the gatehouse to the porch of the house. Blind with its many blocked-up mullioned windows, this has all the beauty of careless use and





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THE PORCH.

"COUNTRY LIFE."





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THE FARM BUILDINGS.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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ON THE NORTH SIDE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

Time's "unimaginable touch" upon its brown-tiled roof and grey walls, clouded with lichen and flecked with moss since Croker saw it as a "fair new house" of the Hennings. Its central feature, like that of Chantemarle, which was begun some fifteen years earlier and is another manor house which

cognisances. The front is dignified by the forecourt, with its low brick wall, ramping up to the gatehouse, and coped "leaning height," as John Thorpe has it, with a broad and satisfactory coping of moulded bricks; but the back of the house, which is the farmyard, has an unstudied arrangement



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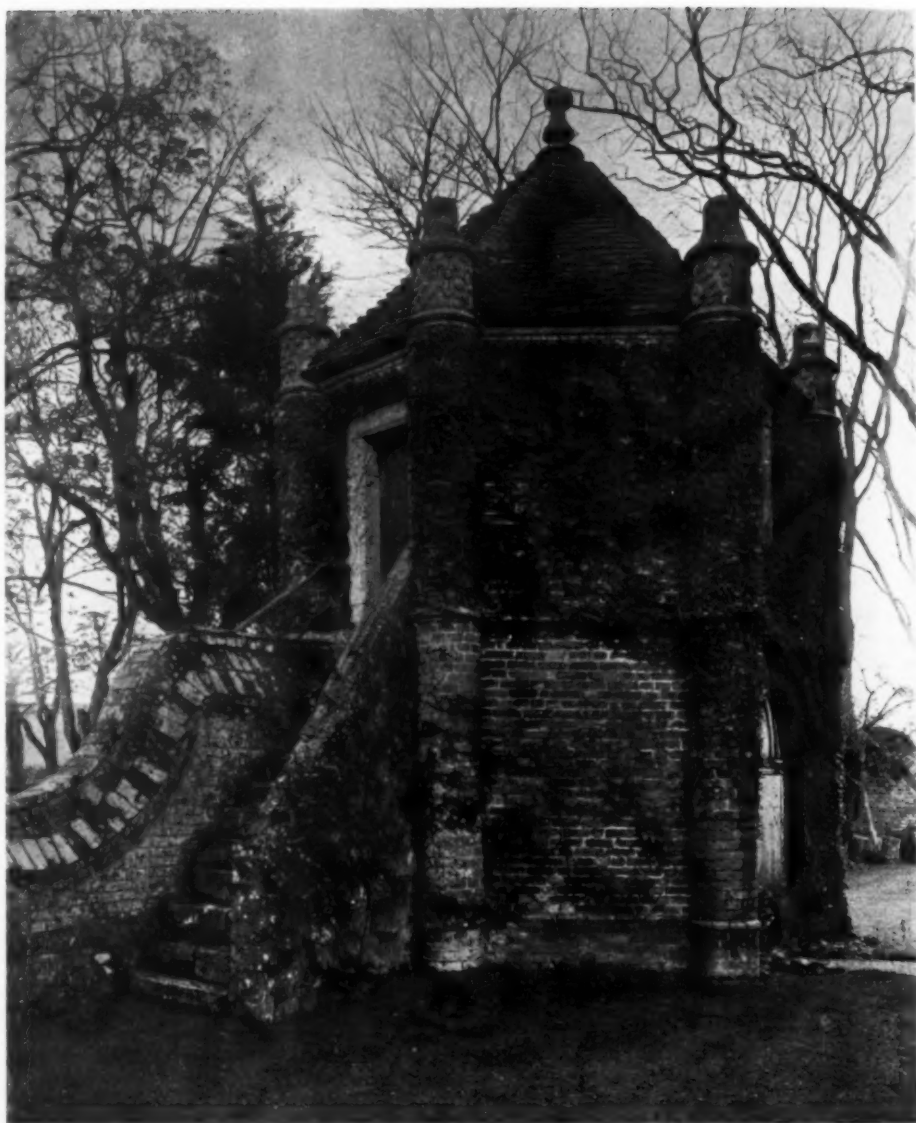
THE GATEHOUSE WITH THE "FOOL'S CHAMBER."

"COUNTRY LIFE."

has descended to a farm, is a projecting porch with its doorway flanked by shallow niches. Otherwise the front is strictly plain, without even a shield of arms to mark it as the Hennings'. Though arms were granted to them in James I.'s reign, the new men as well as the older families found the doorway a suitable and conspicuous place for their

of roof and chimney which has its own charm, though other than the symmetry of the front. In "The Trumpet-Major" Thomas Hardy has drawn it to the life as Overcombe Hall; though he sets it down nearer to Sutton Poyntz than its actual three miles by the map, and adds cracked battlements and a groined porch that the house never possessed.

"The rambling and neglected dwelling" (he writes) "had all the romantic excellences and practical drawbacks which such mildewed places share in common with caves, mountains, wildernesses, glens and other homes of poesy that people of taste wish to live and die in. Mustard and cress could have been raised on the inner plaster of the dewy walls at any height not exceeding three feet from the floor; and mushrooms of the most refined and thin-stemmed kinds grew up through the chinks of the larder paving. As for the outside, Nature, in the ample time that had been given her, had so mingled her filings and effacements with the marks of human wear and tear upon the house that it was hard to say in which of the two, or if in both, any particular obliteration had its origin. The keenness was gone from the mouldings of the doorways, but whether worn out by the rubbing past of innumerable shoulders and the moving of heavy furniture, or by Time in a grander and more abstract form, did not appear; . . . the panes had either lost their shine altogether or become iridescent as a peacock's tail. The quadrangle of the ancient pile was a bed of mud and manure. In the groined porch some heifers were amusing themselves by stretching up their necks and licking the carved stone capitals that supported the vaulting." This is both true and untrue to-day, for the forecourt is no longer a muddy quadrangle, nor the garden weed-grown and neglected; but the grey, weather-worn front, edging from



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THE GATEHOUSE FROM THE FORECOURT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

behind its trees, has lost nothing of its charm of a mansion in declension. J.

(Next week a *Château of France* will be illustrated: "*Chateaudun*," the property of the Duc de Luynes.)

## THE STATE BEDS AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

**A**FTER John Evelyn's visit to Hampton Court on July 16th, 1689, he recorded the fact that "a great apartment and spacious gardens with fountains was beginning in the Park at the head of the Canal." During the previous six months, Sir Christopher Wren had been engaged on the demolition of the old Tudor State apartments in order to make room for the building known now as William III.'s addition to the Palace. With this destruction of Henry VIII.'s State rooms, the remaining furniture connected with our Tudor and Jacobean sovereigns that had survived the disposal of the royal effects at the death of Charles I. disappeared, with the exception of certain tapestries and furniture which the Protector retained in the Palace for his own use. An inventory of goods taken after the death of Cromwell is given in Mr. Ernest Law's "*History of Hampton Court Palace*"; only forty-one beds are mentioned, but among them one very important specimen, as follows: "In the Rich Bedchamber, one Bedsted with a sackcloth bottom, the Furniture of rich incarnadine velvett imbroidered very rich with gold and silver conteyning Three courtines, Fower cantoons, deepe Vallons and bases, Fower Cupps of the same velvett and imbroidered suitable to the same bed. The ceeler and head cloth of the said bed is of rich cloth of gold with inward vallons, cases for the posts and lynynges of the curtains and cantoones all of the same." "The cases for the posts" prove that the bed was Jacobean, as the massive carved oak posts began to be

superseded by slender uprights covered in material about 1615. The inventory also mentions "three large courtins of scarlet bazes being a case about the bed," showing that care was taken of such valuable furniture when not in use. In late seventeenth and early eighteenth century examples, an iron rail is often found above the cornice to support an outer covering. Many other bedsteads with rich hangings are recorded in this interesting inventory of the Palace furniture under Cromwellian occupation, but the height of the new rooms in Wren's building, as in other contemporary great houses, demanded a new fashion in furniture, and beds were then made of an absurd height to meet the proportion of these rooms.

In the private dining-room of the Palace is the bed known as Queen Mary's (first illustration). The curtains, valances, quilt and basses (the lower valances) are of crimson velvet ornamented with a broad silver galon and deep fringe; the corners of the tester are surmounted by four openwork vase-shaped finials plumed with ostrich feathers, the back and curtains being lined with crimson silk. The height to the top of the plumes is seventeen feet; length, eight feet; width, six feet six inches; this bed, however, could not have belonged to Queen Mary, for she died in 1694, and never slept in the new State apartments built by her husband, which were not furnished until 1699. In one of the rooms there is a case containing extracts from the Palace accounts where mention of this actual crimson velvet bed is made, as "sold to His Majesty by



the Earl of Jersey for His Majesty's State Bedchamber at Hampton Court," and also gives the details of its relining with crimson silk. The State canopy in the King's Audience Chamber is trimmed with the same galon in the same design as the valances of this bed, and made of exactly the same silk as the other canopy, bearing the King's initials, made in 1699. The bed, with its surrounding furniture, must have belonged to William, and used by him during the two years he occupied his new State apartments. The cornice has been removed, which accounts for the vases and feathers appearing out of proportion, otherwise the entire structure exactly coincides with the fashion of the end of the century. In Queen Anne's bed, now standing in the "Queen's Bedchamber," can be seen a similar structure to the missing cornice on the other. This cornice and vase-shaped finials are covered with the gorgeous figured velvet with which the rest of the bed is hung, the velvet being glued on to the wood. In this fine fabric, reputed to have been woven at Spitalfields, the pattern is of claret and green, the latter now faded to a dull yellow, on a cream silk ground. The surrounding furniture, all of which is rather earlier in date than the bed, is covered with the same material, which very probably formed hangings in the room at Windsor Castle, where the bed originally stood, for it was sent to Hampton Court from there early in the nineteenth century. It may be noticed that the trimmings to the curtains and valances are extremely simple, for by the beginning of Anne's reign the elaborate tasselled fringes of the seventeenth century were going out of fashion. The height of this bed is remarkable, it being nineteen feet six inches. Queen Anne's visits to Hampton Court were never of long duration, and it was not till September, 1710, that she resided in the Palace for even a fortnight, contenting herself with completing what William III. had left unfinished there. She probably used the royal red velvet bed of our first illustration, which would have been almost new on these comparatively short visits, and in this manner has caused posterity to confuse the attributions of the two successive Queens who were sisters.

By far the most interesting of the Hampton Court beds that remain is the third illustrated, unwisely attributed by the authorities to William III. Now, as it is quite certain that



WILLIAM THE THIRD'S BED.



QUEEN ANNE'S BED.

the King bought a red velvet bed for his own use in December, 1699, it is unlikely that he would have bought another before he died in 1702, designed in the distinct style and manner of 1715. The simple and obvious conclusion is that this beautiful bed must have been made for George, Prince of Wales, when he represented his father, George I., at Hampton

covered in rose damask, are exactly in accordance with the architectural decoration of this time; in addition, the pattern on the damask coincides with the date of the Georgian mouldings, and the canopy in the Queen's Audience Chamber (rightly attributed to the time of George I.) is made of the same damask. A similar bed was in the

possession of Lord Chesterfield at the time of the Holme Lacy sale, and at Houghton is an Indian needlework bed of the same type that cannot be dated before 1726, as the Order of the Garter granted to Sir Robert Walpole that year, is embroidered at the head. Another bed of this type is at Hardwick, covered in a damask that is irreconcilable with any pattern of William III.'s time. But the most convincing evidence, which apparently has been completely overlooked by the authorities who allocated these beds, is the ornament twice repeated at the bed head of the device of three Prince of Wales Feathers.

It is always distressing to disturb traditions associated with any historical royal possessions, but on the other hand, it is negligent to mislead the public, and the mere arrangement of the rare and fine set of William III. chairs, covered in the small patterned Genoa velvet of that time, grouped round this early George I.'s bed in combination with the terminal figure pedestals of William Kent, prove that those in authority have still much to learn in archaeological classification. It is presumed that Marot designed bedsteads with other furniture for William; if so, they remained at Windsor or St. James' and disappeared with so much that was interesting of this artist's work. A fine illustration of a Marot bed is given in COUNTRY LIFE of November 25th, 1911, which still remains in the other Hampton Court near Leo-



BED KNOWN AS KING WILLIAM'S: PROBABLY OF 1715.

Court during the King's absences in Hanover; for George I. much frequented the Palace early in his reign, and thus placed London and the Londoners, whom he cordially disliked, at a more convenient distance than if he had been at St. James'. The style of the cornice, with its scrollings, corbels, cantonnières and elaborately carved bed-head all

minster. Here the decoration is betasselled and festooned in the true manner of the last fifteen years of the seventeenth century, and is hung with sapphire-coloured blue damask. All the Hampton Court Palace beds possess their original feather mattresses, sometimes three or four in number; they are quite thin and covered in

fine cream satin, all quilted and finished with small tufts of green or rose silk. They have been preserved from the light and dirt and are at present in perfect condition.

In the "Queen's Private Chamber" is a small bed (fourth illustration), hung with rose damask, which is traditionally supposed to have been used by George II. after the death of Queen Caroline in 1737. The actual date of this bedstead and the silk with which it is covered is about the year 1720, and in its make represents the ordinary small bedstead with the square-sided cupola topped finials of that time; the large, rather lozenge-shaped pattern of the damask, with its palmated and conventional fruit centres, in no way resembles the florid silk designs fashionable at the time of the Queen's demise, but it is quite possible that George II. may have made use of this bed. At Houghton in Norfolk is a small bed of almost similar arrangement and proportion, hung with Chinese embroidered silk and satin in colours on a cream ground, showing that this type of bed was in use during the first part of the eighteenth century. The extremely small marble bath, seen in the left side of the illustration, belongs also to the first quarter of the century; the stools with their pear-shaped legs are earlier than the accession of George I.

In the Queen's Presence Chamber is the handsome bed with very fine embroidered hangings. It was probably designed by Robert Adam for Charlotte, Queen to George III., the elaborate needlework being executed for their royal patrons by the pupils of the Clergy Orphan School. The gilt cornice is composed of two broad fasciæ carved in the style of Adam, intersected with a series of fine members, and is hipped at the corners with the akroter—an ornament used in classical times to decorate the lower angles of a pediment where it meets the roof. The valances, basses and cantonnières are of lilac silk embroidered with garlands of flowers, most brilliant in colour and tasteful in design, the back of the bed and the quilt being of cream satin decorated with similar embroidery. It is interesting to notice that the old-fashioned *cantoon* or cantonnière holders were still preserved at the corners of the valances. These projecting holders held the small extra curtains that excluded any possible draught at the foot of the bed; those to correspond at the head of the bed were termed bonegraces.

These beds are all that remain now at the Palace from what Mr. Law quotes from the inventory as "scores upon scores of beds of red, green and russet velvet, satin and silk, with rich curtains and fringes of the same materials and all with magnificent 'ceilers' and 'testors,' besides the 280 beds always ready for strangers, and the trussing bedstead of alabaster, with gilt posts and cardinals' hats, which must have been made for Wolsey, together with many others of later dates."

PERCY MACQUOID.



CIRCA 1720.



QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S BED.

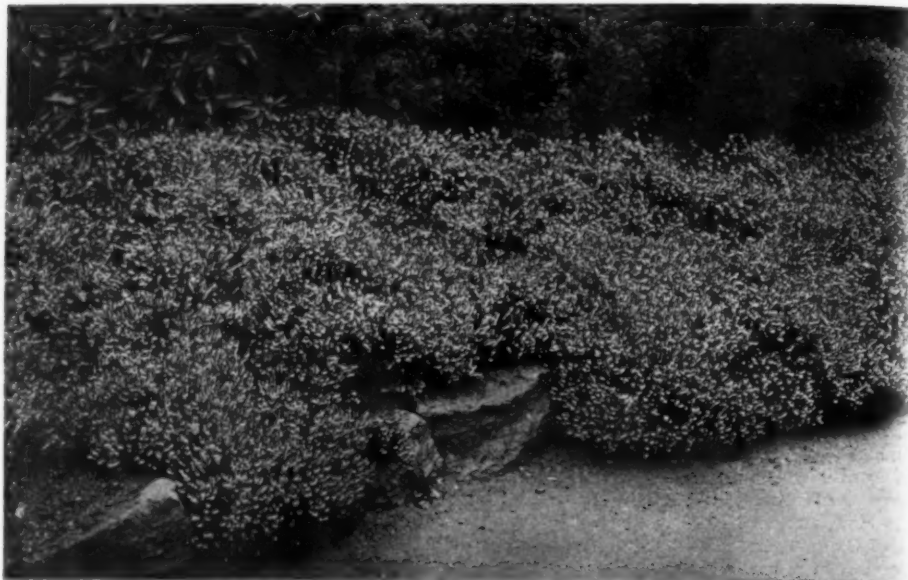


## IN THE GARDEN.

### THE HEATH GARDEN IN SPRING.

THESE are few more pleasing features in the outdoor garden at any season than the home of the hardy Heaths. In mid-winter, as we have on more than one occasion shown in these pages, there are several kinds in flower, and the display is continued by others right through the spring, summer and autumn. Just now there are several very beautiful kinds in flower, the most charming of all being the so-called winter Heath, *Erica carnea*. Although the flowers of this do actually open during the waning days of winter, it is not until spring is here that its full beauty is revealed.

It is a generally accepted belief that *Ericas* and other peat-loving shrubs of the same Natural Order, such as *Rhododendrons* and *Azaleas*, will not thrive over soils containing lime or chalk. In this bright, rose-coloured Heath we have a notable exception, for even though it shows preference for a sandy peat or loamy soil, it will nevertheless thrive in a soil rich in chalk or limestone. In Lord Sherborne's garden, situated in the middle of the Cotswolds, where the soil is nothing but limestone, this accommodating Heath spreads rapidly and flowers abundantly. This is a point worth noting, and those who have not yet been successful in the cultivation of Heaths should not despair before giving *Erica carnea* a trial. It is a low-growing species not exceeding six inches in height, and when established never fails to display a carpet of bloom in the springtime. It is an admirable subject for planting in the foreground of the rock garden.



THE SO-CALLED WINTER HEATH, *ERICA CARNEA*.

*This has flowers of a bright rose colour.*

A taller species that is now very beautiful is *Erica mediterranea*. This must not be confused with *mediterranea hybrida* (now named *darleyensis* at Kew), which flowers in midwinter and is of much dwarfer habit. *Mediterranea* proper makes a more or less erect bush several feet in height, and in April is freely bespangled with its pink flowers, which are delightfully fragrant. It is a native of the south-west provinces of France and Spain. There is a white-flowered form of it named *alba*, which makes a rather more compact bush and is not so good as the type. The Tree Heath, *Erica arborea*, a fine colony of which is shown in one of the illustrations, has nearly finished





E. J. Wallis

A FINE COLONY OF THE TREE HEATH, *ERICA ARBOREA*.

Copyright.

flowering. It was introduced from the Mediterranean and Caucasus as long ago as 1658, and is to be found in a good many gardens. It forms quite a large shrub, sometimes as much as twenty feet in height, and is usually freely clothed with its white blossoms in early spring.

Very similar in appearance is the Portuguese Heath, *Erica lusitanica*. It flowers at the same time, and in most gardens is now past its best. A very pretty Heath that many find difficult to grow is *Erica australis*. It also is a native of Portugal, and although of rather a loose, ungainly habit, is well worth trying on account of the colour of its flowers; this is a charming shade of rose-red. This Heath flourishes in many Cornish and other West Country gardens, where it attains a height of five feet; but one does not often see good plants in the London district. Just now it is at its best, so far as flowering is concerned. The foregoing may be regarded as the best of the spring-flowering Heaths; those that blossom in summer and autumn will be described later.

F. W. H.

#### THE DOUBLE-FLOWERED BLACKTHORN.

NOW that the Blackthorn, or Sloe, is flowering freely in our hedgerows, it may be of interest to draw attention to the double-flowered variety, known by the botanical name of *Prunus spinosa flore pleno*. This makes a graceful, low-spreading tree that is pleasing to behold at all times, but just now, when the black-barked branches are wreathed in dainty, rosette-like flowers of the purest white, it will pass muster with the choicest of our hardy flowering shrubs or trees. Planted in the woodland, where it can have a background of dark-leaved evergreens, this double-flowered Blackthorn is particularly effective.

#### A BLUE-FLOWERED RHODODENDRON FOR THE ROCK GARDEN.

A very charming little Rhododendron, which is now in the hands of a few nurserymen, has been flowering in a number of gardens this spring. It is named *R. intricatum* and is a native of China,

whence it was sent to this country some twelve or fourteen years ago by Wilson. In the Rhododendron collection at Kew during the early days of April there was quite a little colony of bushes appropriately planted among some temporary rockwork. These were not more than nine inches high, and each was flowering very freely indeed. In colour the blossoms are soft blue, something after the shade of the well known *Viola Maggie Mott*. When it becomes more plentiful this little Rhododendron will make a charming and distinct plant for the rock garden or any other position where a low-growing shrub of unique appearance would be in keeping with the surroundings. As the plants at Kew were raised from cuttings, it does not appear to be difficult to propagate, and apparently it will thrive in the peaty or leafy soil usually provided for its more robust relatives. In a few years time, when it becomes better known, this will be one of the most appreciated of all hardy flowering shrubs.

H.



G. A. Champion.

THE PORTUGUESE HEATH, *ERICA LUSITANICA*.

Copyright.



## OUR RIFLE-SHOOTING COMPETITIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL O.T.C. CONTINGENTS.



*Schools furnishing two and more Companies of Infantry.*

MINIATURES OF THE LANDSCAPE TARGETS. THE AIMING POINTS ARE INDICATED BY PINHOLES.

**A**N announcement which will, we think, give general pleasure is that, by arrangement with the Council of the National Rifle Association, we are offering a trophy for a 600yds. shoot at Bisley. The firing for the trophy will take place on the day

preceding the Ashburton, under conditions which will be circulated early next month. This step has been taken with a view to linking up the shooting at the Public Schools with the short range competitions at Bisley after a boy has gone up to the University or into a profession, as nearly all the short range competitions include a 600yds. shoot, and this is the range at which the Public Schools' Veterans' Match is fired. The trophy will take the form of replicas of a pair of Elizabethan Steeple Salts. The members of the winning team will be presented with silver medals, bronze medals being awarded to members of the team making the second highest score.

To-day we have very great pleasure in announcing the results for 1914 of our small-bore rifle-shooting competition for schools furnishing contingents to the Junior Division of

the Officers' Training Corps. It is gratifying to be able to report that the interest taken in it during the past twelve months has not only been unabated, but even keener than in the previous year. It will be seen that Radley and Trent are again winners of the Public Schools O.T.C. Trophy and



THE BEST "POSSIBLES" ON SNAP-SHOOTING TARGETS, THREE SECONDS EXPOSURE (HALF SIZE).

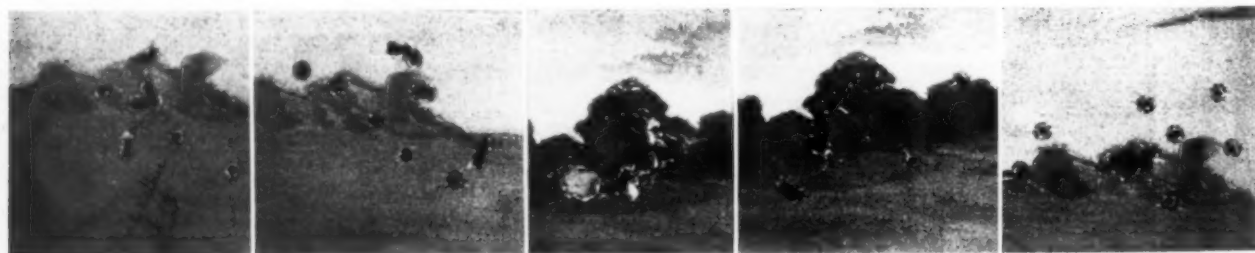
Rugby.

Harrow.  
Pte. Smith.

Sherborne.  
Pte. Betts.

Repton.  
Lc.-Cpl. Cann.

the Officers' Training Corps Trophy respectively. This is a remarkable result, and goes to prove, if that were necessary, that these schools are able to win owing to sterling good work. The results ought not to discourage others, but rather stimulate them to higher endeavour. Without



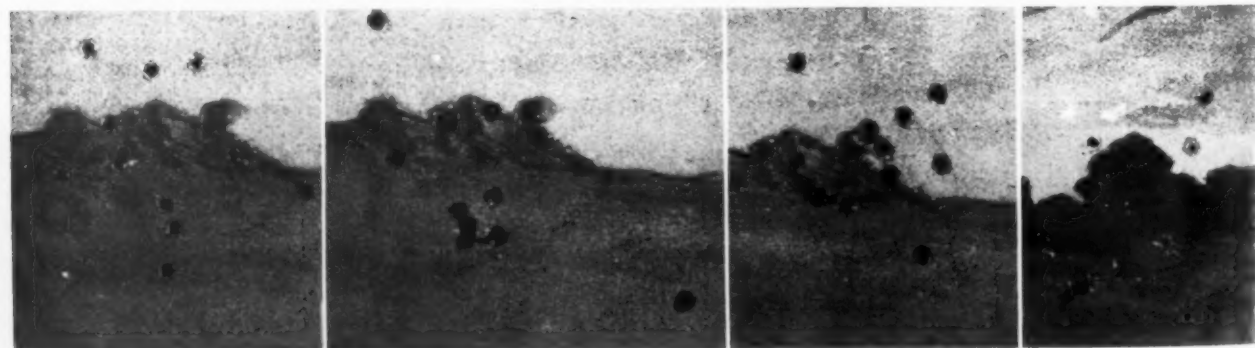
Radley, 235.

Lancing, 235.

Trent, 240.

Reading, 235.

Fettes, 225.



Harrow, 225.

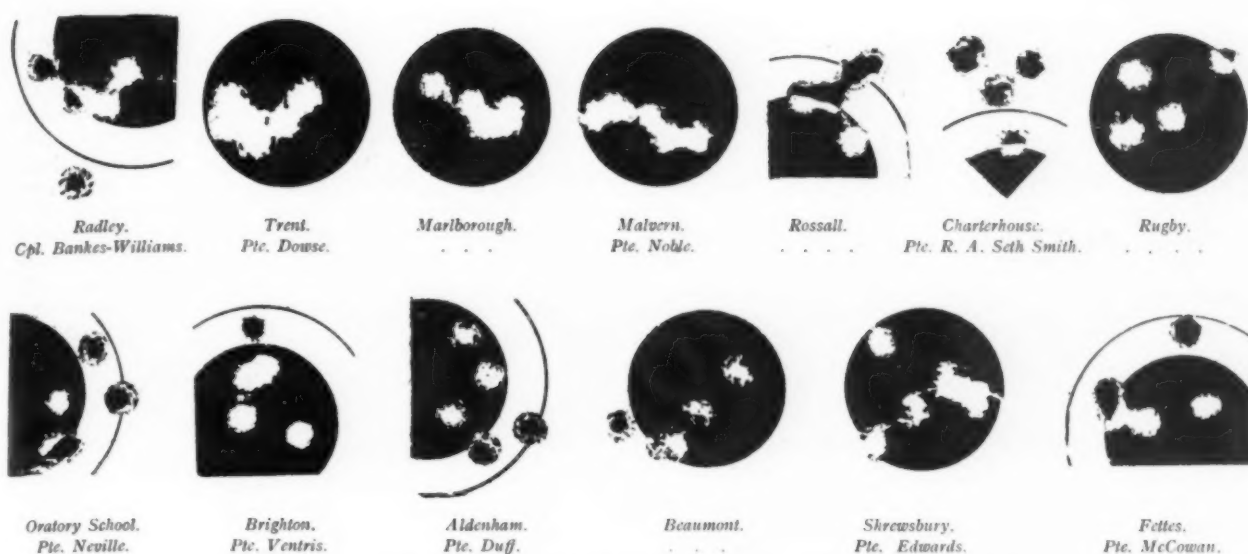
Stonyhurst, 225.

Merchiston Castle, 225.

Beaumont, 220.

A FEW OF THE BEST LANDSCAPE TARGETS (REDUCED).



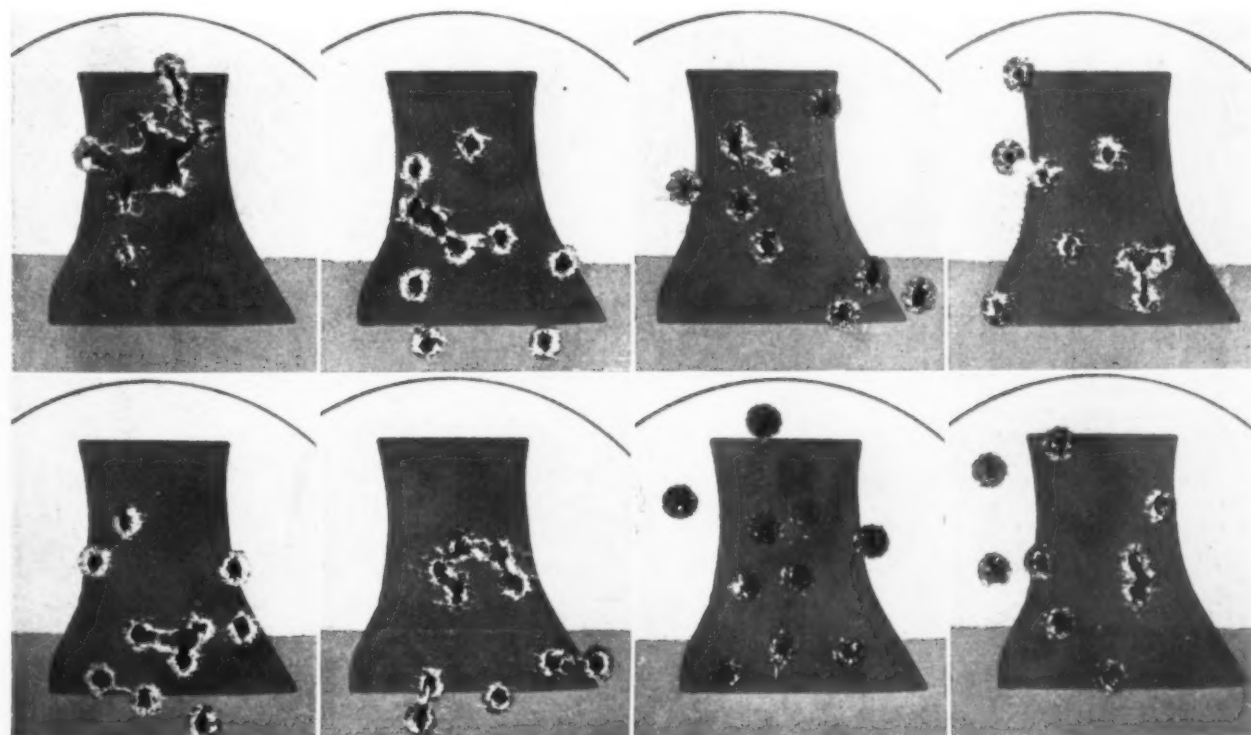


SOME ONE INCH GROUPING TARGETS, ACTUAL SIZE, FIVE SHOTS.

saying anything in detraction from the merits of individual marksmanship, it has been suggested that the Sergeant instructors in the winning schools have developed the training in regard to the Landscape Target to an exact science. In this connection it will interest those concerned to hear that an entirely new target is in course of preparation.

OUR shooting expert writes as follows: The conditions laid down for the firing of our annual small-bore rifle-shooting competitions for schools furnishing contingents to the Junior Division of the Officers' Training Corps underwent a revision this year as regards the scoring of the Rapid targets, and the speed of the Snap shooting for schools furnishing two or more companies, and as regards the scoring of the Rapid only for schools furnishing one company. In the case of the Rapid target, all the ten shots had to be on, or cutting, the figure to score a "possible," instead of the figure and inner ring as last year; and the exposure of the Snap shooting target was reduced from four seconds to three. The competitions were shot between March 14th and 21st inclusive, and many Officers Commanding have written to the effect that the firing was carried out under the worst possible

weather conditions, *i.e.*, high winds and rain and in some cases sleet and snow. The entries were largely in excess of 1913, but owing to the adverse conditions referred to some seven or eight schools have failed to return their targets. On the whole, the Grouping targets are not quite up to last year's standard, and it is hardly necessary to say that the scores made in the Rapid practice are also considerably lower, largely owing to the higher standard demanded for the "possible." On the other hand, the shooting on the Landscape targets shows a further improvement, more than half of the competing teams returning scores of 200 and over, out of a possible 240; it must not, however, be forgotten that although a different panel was selected for the aiming point, the same set of panels was used as last year, so that all the different objects on the landscape suitable for aiming points will have been more or less familiar. The Public Schools' Officers Training Corps Trophy again goes to Radley with a score of 638 points out of a possible 690, Lancing being second with 618 and Rossall third with 594. Radley, and Lancing returned Landscape targets scoring 235 points out of a possible 240, other scores of 200 and over being as follows: Harrow, Stonyhurst, Fettes, Merchiston Castle and



SOME RAPID TARGETS, 10 SHOTS IN 60 SECONDS, SINGLE LOADING (ACTUAL SIZE).

Whitgift, 225; Wellington (Berks) and Sherborne, 220; Charterhouse, Rossall and University College School, 215; Aldenham and Denstone, 210; Rugby and King Edward's School (Birmingham), 205; Felsted and Merchant Taylors', 200. Shrewsbury has the honour of returning the best score for groups, namely, 95 out of a possible 100, Rossall and King's School, Canterbury (firing at 15yds. range with proportional targets), each scoring 90, Charterhouse and Lancing next with 85, and Radley, Repton, Christ's Hospital, University College School and Denstone with 80 points. In the Rapid, Radley head the list with 176 out of 200, Charterhouse being second with 163 and Lancing third with 3 points less. In the Snap shooting, Radley dropped only one shot, *i.e.*, 3 points, with a score of 147 out of 150, Merchant Taylors' following closely with 144, and Rugby, Rossall, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Aldenham with 141 points each.

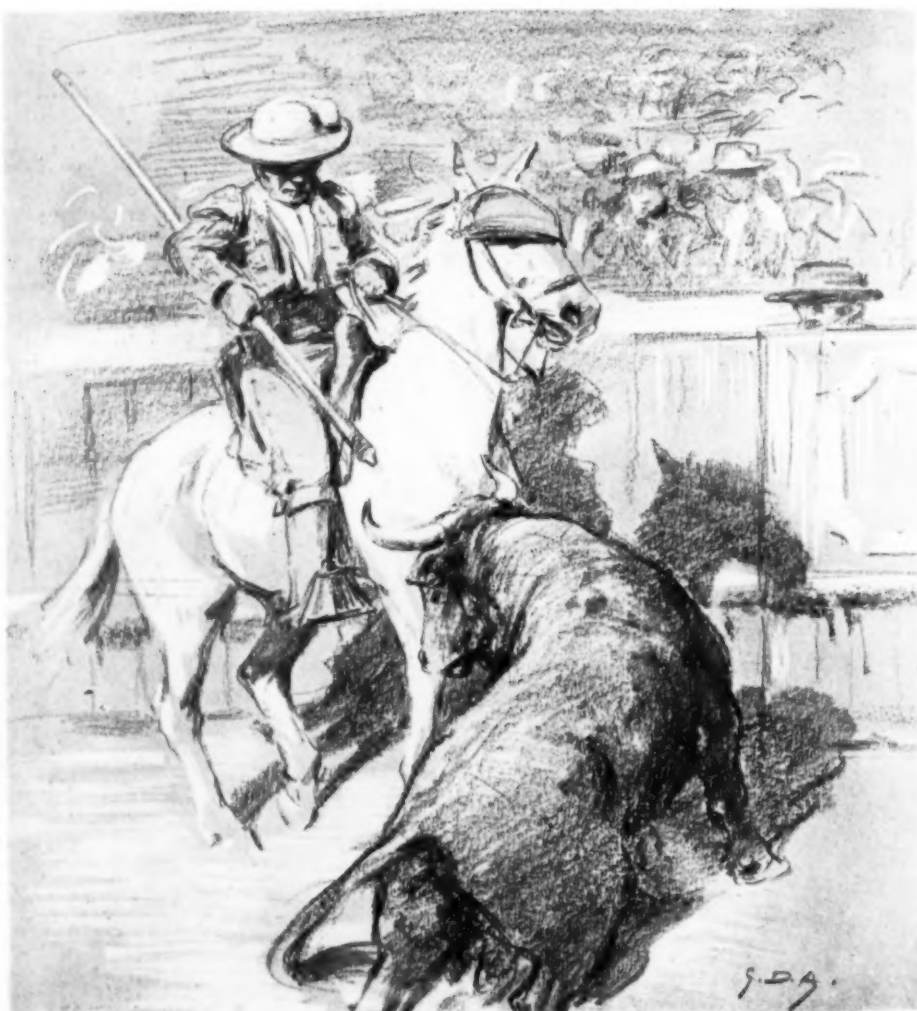
Trent again win the Officers' Training Corps Trophy with 504 out of a possible 540, making "possibles" on both the Grouping targets and the Landscape. This deserves the highest praise to team and instructor alike. The Landscape returned by Reading scoring 235 points is of great merit, and the following schools made scores on the Landscape of 200 and over, namely: Solihull and King Edward's School (Sheffield),

225; Beaumont College (Windsor), 220; Dean Close School, 215; Oratory School (Birmingham), 210; Imperial Service College (Windsor), King's College (Taunton) and King's College School (Wimbledon), 205; and St. Edward's School (Oxford), 200. In the Grouping, Solihull come next to the winners with 85 points out of 100, their range being 20yds., with proportional targets. Trent's score of 164 for the Rapid practice is followed by Oratory School (Birmingham) with 133 and Exeter with 124. It will be seen that we have reproduced a number of individual targets, and among them a very fine Rapid from King's School (Worcester) whose score had unfortunately to be disqualified owing to a technical breach of the conditions, namely, the opening of the envelope containing the selected panel before "the morning of the date selected for the firing of the competition." Directly the error was realised, the Commanding Officer communicated with us on the subject, with the result stated. It may also be mentioned that Wellington (Salop) returned targets incomplete in number, but their Landscape scored 205 points.

In addition to the prizes awarded to individual members of the winning teams, bronze medals will be awarded to individual members of the teams making the second highest score in each competition, and we hope that weather conditions in 1915 will be more favourable. Further details will be found on page 32<sup>a</sup>.

## EASTER BULL-FIGHTING AT SEVILLE

A MODERN Englishman seldom thinks of bull-fighting without something of a shudder; yet it is not so very long since we as a nation patronised sports that were even more barbarous. So short is the interval that has elapsed that the arrangements for carrying on Bull-baiting and Cock-fighting can still be seen in some of the older villages, particularly those which are remote and not subjected to the inroad of the holiday-maker. One village at least there is in the North of England where you may see the stone with the ring still attached to it, where bull-baiting was the ordinary amusement of a holiday. In this place, also, the cockpit (which, by the bye, is not a cockpit, but a raised platform) stands adjacent to the bull-ring on the same green. Both of these amusements brought out what was the most highly-prized quality of the old-fashioned Englishman—pluck and endurance. There was no skill in the mastiff or bulldog which was brought to deal with the bull: it was courage, and that of a very savage kind, which provided the only admirable element; and how much this admiration of courage has become part of our nature is shown from the way in which the phrase "It's dogged that does it," has worked itself into our proverbial philosophy. Now, bull-fighting is not, and never was, as savage a sport as bull-baiting. It makes a call not so much upon mere courage, although this cannot be dispensed with, as upon horsemanship, skill and general activity and adroitness. The worst feature is undoubtedly the punishment to which the horses, which are non-combatants, are exposed. An English correspondent, who may be taken as very representative of his nation and his class, too refined to care for cruel sport of any kind, and yet neither mawkishly sentimental nor exceedingly humanitarian, writes to us about bull-fighting: "I was at Seville



A PICADOR.

with a British official and his wife, a very charming lady, and there were other ladies present. We went to the bull-fight which is the most fashionable of the year, that is to say, the first of the Easter bull-fights. The arena was packed and, as far as the sight is concerned, everything, with one exception, was well worth seeing, and I would like to witness it all again. There was a fine exhibition of skill and bravery on the part of the matadors, and the bull seemed to enter into the spirit of the thing as much as the other *dramatis personæ*. If he had any intelligence, he would much prefer

death in this way to slaughter at the hand of a butcher; and probably in his fury and excitement he lost all sense equally of pain and of fear. The blot on the show is the slaughter of the horses. It is impossible to excuse or understand the feelings of people who can go again and again to see it. Yet the ladies of the party of which I formed a part, who were partly Spanish and partly English resident in Spain, told me that their first experience of a bull-

fight was exactly the same as my own. I had to shut my eyes to keep out the sight of these horses; but I did not



PLANTING THE BANDERILLAS.

close them before seeing enough to steep the imagination in horror. Nevertheless, ladies get accustomed to this sight, and one of great cultivation and high breeding told me that, although she could not understand how the process worked out, she had grown accustomed to the slaughter of the horses and did not mind it in the least. Probably, however, the comment on that would be that there is a certain petrification of the feelings in witnessing

sports of this very cruel description." This correspondent puts the case very moderately and clearly from his point of



PLAY WITH THE CAPA.



view; another sends us the following remarks and particulars about bull-fighting:

The bull-ring is cited sometimes as damaging to agriculture in Spain. This may be so, though I am not qualified to say. Possibly the cry may be something like the familiar one at home, of the waste of ground used as deer forests. Anyhow, I have seen it stated that something between two and three thousand bulls are killed in the season. How the figures are arrived at I do not know, but I should say that for every one killed in the great corridas there are a great many more—the rejected after trial—which meet their end in less spectacular fashion, and which probably do not come into this computation, so the total may well be far greater.

The bull-fighter, like the fashionable jockey with us, is the popular idol of a section of the public, and occupies

much the same social position. I have heard it asserted that those of the first rank of them were associated with by all classes and friends of royalty itself, but this is quite a misapprehension. In Spain etiquette plays a much more important part than most places. "A cat may look at a king" there as elsewhere, and in all probability the king will speak to the cat, especially the present gracious monarch of the Peninsula, and this is all the more likely on account of the line of demarkation between classes in Spain which prevents any fear of misunderstanding.

Many people think that the large sums received by great bull-fighters are on account of their bravery—a hundred and fifty or two hundred pounds is no unusual fee for the day—but bravery is common, and life is not so highly valued in Spain as here. The real reason is that first-rate bull-fighters, like first-rate jockeys, are rare.

## THE MANAGEMENT OF A MODERN MUSEUM.

BY A. E. SHIPLEY.

ON a recent visit to the United States I was struck with the number of points in museum management whereon we could learn from our American cousins. Many of my readers know their great Museum of Natural History, but, for the sake of those not so conversant with it, it may be stated briefly that it has stood for some thirty-five years on an area of some eighteen acres of land, known as Manhattan Square, situated on Seventy-ninth Street, and to the west of Central Park in New York City. This was not its first site. In 1869 the Museum had been incorporated, and for some years led a restricted life in the old arsenal in Central Park, where its proximity to the menagerie was undoubtedly an added attraction for visitors. The Manhattan Square site was thirty-five years ago very inaccessible to the dwellers "down town," and, moreover, was very rough ground, which took much time and trouble to clear. However, plans were prepared, and by 1874 the foundation stone was laid by President Grant, and three years later the first portion, the south central pavilion, was opened to the public. Since this date the centre of population has moved northward, and the number of daily visitors testifies that it is no longer out of reach.

When completed the Museum will consist of an equal-sided quadrangle, enclosing a cross, whose intersecting limbs meet in a central hall or auditorium and divide the remaining area into four courts. At present the building comprises the southern side, 710ft. in length, with a "return" along the western side, and the southern limb of the cross terminating in the central hall. This building has cost £1,000,000, and affords a floor space of about ten acres, of which considerably more than one half is open to the public. The completed Museum will cover an area of fifteen acres, "and fill a space three times larger than the basement area of the British Museum." It is already one of the largest municipal buildings extant, and when completed it will be larger than the Escorial or any other single building.

The Museum is financed from several sources. The erection of the buildings and the cost of their maintenance is borne by the City of New York. Last year the city fathers voted a sum of £39,000 for the latter purpose. For new buildings sums are appropriated as occasion arises: nothing in 1913, but £55,000 in the previous year. In return for this the Trustees make over to the Museum the collections they from time to time receive and defray the cost of identifying, arranging, cataloguing and generally of "curating" the specimens.

### THE INCOME OF THE MUSEUM.

To meet this latter charge they have two funds: (1) the income of the permanent endowment fund, to which in the last ten years a sum of about £360,000 has been given; and (2) contributions for current expenses from the Trustees and members. This brings us up against a peculiar feature in the New York Museum. Like our Zoological and Botanical Gardens in Regent's Park, the Museum is largely financed by a body of Members, now numbering 3,500, and who enjoy special privileges. A well appointed room in the Museum is set aside for their use, and certain courses of lectures, which are very well attended, are restricted to them. Their yearly subscription is £2, which may be commuted by a single payment of £20; but membership is not to be measured only by money. It evokes other interests full of value to the Museum. From the members' subscriptions and from certain gifts from the Trustees—the Trustees are very modest, and it is not easy to disentangle what they

give—an income of £53,000 came in 1912, and of £307,000 in the last ten years. From all these sources a revenue of £95,500 was available for 1912.

### AN IDEAL SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT.

The Museum is controlled by a Board of some thirty Trustees which co-opt from time to time new members. On its list are the names of many of the most prominent Americans, who attend the meetings of the Board with surprising regularity. Under them is a scientific staff of fifty-two curators and assistant curators, with perhaps three times as many "preparators" and assistants. To an outside observer the relations of this staff *inter se* appear most happy and harmonious, and this result seems due to two causes. The members of the staff of each department meet regularly and frequently, and each officer gives to the others a short account of his work and on what lines he would wish to see it developed. The proceedings of these periodic meetings are minuted, and the minutes are then considered at a meeting of the heads of departments only, and after criticism and revision are passed on to the Trustees, with whom the final policy of the Museum rests. Thus every member, even the youngest, feels he has a chance of achieving his own ideals and of to some extent moulding the policy of the Museum, and this makes for a healthy *esprit de corps* and a legitimate pride in the institution he serves. Then at not very infrequent intervals the officers are sent, sometimes for months, into the field. There is a break in their museum life; they do not see each other too continuously—a good thing with our imperfect humanity—and they return from their expeditions to their workshops refreshed and restored.

This year the Trustees have put forward a contributory Pension Scheme; to this they will give an annual sum of £1,600 to meet a similar amount contributed by the members of the staff and of the working force. It is worthy of note that with hardly an exception all the employees have welcomed this arrangement. Before passing on to describe some of the collections which give peculiar interest to the Museum, there are certain other features in its management and arrangement which call for attention. Some of them may seem trivial, such as the provision, free of charge, of wheeled chairs for invalids or cripples; the children's room, where the showcases are low and within reach of their eyes, and the specimens simple, within the grasp of their intellect. The catalogue tells us these exhibits are arranged so as to lead the little ones "to ask why and what for"; but in the experience of the writer American children do not need much leading in this direction. Then there is the mechanical lantern, which, in a mechanical and passionless sort of way, throws, every half minute, a coloured slide upon a screen; and many other devices of like nature. Certainly one of the most peculiar features of a museum of natural history is the absence of a botanical department. True, there is the Jesup collection of native timbers; true, "living bacteria are maintained and distributed free"; but these are but the *a* and the *ω* of plant life, and where is all the rest of the alphabet? The section on Public Health, with its exhibits of "water supply" and of the "disposal of city wastes," is probably a tribute to the municipality which has built the Museum. There is, moreover, a Department of Anatomy and Physiology whose anatomical section is engaged in the preparation of skulls and skeletons of vertebrates and whose physiological half seems to be occupied with experimental physiology, an unusual feature in a museum of natural history.

## WILD COUNTRY LIFE.

## THE POTTO.

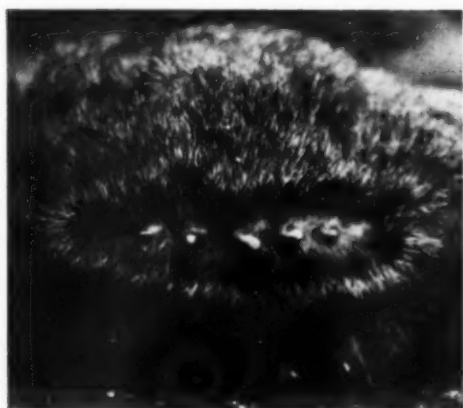
**T**HOUGH the potto has been known to zoologists for more than two hundred years, it has remained to this day in a quite undeserved obscurity, and this because of its rarity in menageries and in museums. Strangely enough, the Dutch navigator, Van Bosman, who discovered and described it, failed completely to appreciate the many singularities of his find. This much is evident from his remark that the potto "hath nothing very particular but his odious ugliness." As a matter of fact there are few animals which possess so many singular features, and there are many which are more ugly. A native of West Africa, it differs conspicuously from its lively relatives, the lemurs, in its extreme sluggishness. That it is a tree-dweller is proclaimed at once by its feet. These have an opposable thumb and hind toe, and when grasping a branch the fingers and toes are applied to the under-side of the branch. The first finger is extremely short, being reduced to a mere stump, and nailless, though why this should be so is more than can be explained at present. More singular still is the fact that the spines of the neck vertebrae project beneath the skin to form



W. S. Berridge.

THE POTTO.

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BARE PATCH ON BACK OF POTTO  
SHOWING VERTEBRAL SPINES.

and then thrusting its head down between its arms so that it forms but an inconspicuous spherical excrescence on its chosen resting place. Thereby, doubtless, it escapes the prying eyes of roving carnivores. The potto has a near relation, the angwantibo, which is also a dweller in West African forests. It is a little less ugly, perhaps, than the potto, and has the neck spines less developed, but the first finger is even more degenerate, as also is the tail, which is reduced to a mere stump. We know more of the anatomy of these strange animals than of their habits; for during more than two centuries but few Europeans have ever seen a specimen in its native wilds. All that have come to us have been taken by natives.

W. P. PYCRAFT.

## NATURE RESERVES.

The purchase by the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves of Blakeney Point, to which we have referred before in these columns, has been followed by reservations of other areas in different parts of the country. Mr. William Paul of Ipswich is retaining in its original state a portion of his Suffolk property, where there are still surviving some very rare and interesting animals and plants. More recently Mr. Stanley Brotherhood of Wansford, who has recently acquired the well known wood called the Bedford Purlieu, is making every effort to protect a specimen of the Service tree (*Pyrus torminalis*). The tree has been carefully marked and some of the surrounding trees have been removed, so it is hoped that it will flourish. The Bedford Purlieu is one of the few remaining tracts of the

old Rockingham Forest, the word "purlieu" being used here in its original sense, free place, *i.e.*, a portion of a Royal forest which is not under Royal jurisdiction, hence the edge or boundary of a Royal forest, and finally the word has come to be used loosely for the edge of any locality. The Bedford Purlieu is also remarkable for being the most southerly point at which the interesting northern grass, *Melica nutans*, is found. As we have pointed out before, there is no limit to the extent of a "Nature reserve"; it may be many acres of moorland or forest or merely a single tree or rock. It is to be hoped that this example will be followed.

## A FINE WALRUS HEAD.

Thanks to the courtesy of the owner, I am enabled to give the following particulars regarding a Pacific walrus skull with a remarkably fine pair of tusks recently acquired by Sir Edmund Loder. The tusks measure 32in. in length by 10½in. in basal girth, and weigh 10lb. 6oz. As regards length they are on a par with the fourth specimen in the sixth edition of Rowland Ward's "Records of Big Game," which is in the Norwich Museum. Of the three larger specimens in that list the respective lengths are 32½in., 33½in. and 36in. As regards girth, the biggest specimens in Ward's list are Nos. 6 and 7, which measure respectively 9½in. and 9½in. in circumference, their lengths being 29in. and 30½in. Of the three specimens in which the weight is recorded, the above mentioned Norwich example stands first, with a weight of 9lb. 9oz. So far, therefore, as these records go, the tusks of Sir E. Loder's specimen are well ahead in the matter of weight and girth, and it is probable that they are the heaviest at present known. In a fine skull presented to the Natural History Museum by Colonel H. W. Feilden, C.B.,



A "RECORD" WALRUS.

in 1913, the tusks measure 32in. in length and 9½in. in girth, with a weight of 8½lb.

R. L.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

## ATTACKED BY STOATS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—The following experience of Mr. C. Simons is so unusual and extraordinary that I am sending it to see if you will insert it and let us see from answers if it is not an almost unique experience: "One day in July, when crossing the fields over the Pistern Hills, he found himself attacked by an army of stoats, numbering at least fifty, and possibly more. Their attitude being menacing, he lashed out at them with his stick and scattered them momentarily, but just afterwards he found them arranged in front of him once more, like a company of soldiers. Then from all directions he saw stoats of various size creeping towards him. The sight of their white throats and beady eyes was most uncanny, and he knew that if he attempted to run he would be 'done for.' Gripping his stick he lashed out in all directions, and eventually he beat them off."—C. LOWE.

[Millais, in his "Mammals of Great Britain," refers to several instances of stoats attacking men and dogs.—Ed.]



## CORRESPONDENCE.

### HEIGHT OF YOUNG POLO PONIES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I have read all the letters you have received on the above subject, but having had little or no experience in breeding polo ponies in England cannot say much about it of any real value. I have been breeding polo ponies for a good many years in the Argentine, where we run everything out at grass, and having levelled the mares down my experience is that the young ponies out of them by the same sire are as level as peas. Our yearlings and two year olds are certainly smaller than most of those that win prizes at the London Show, but then our ponies go on growing gradually right along till they are five years old, whereas some of your correspondents say their ponies do not grow, if done well early, after they are two years old. I do not altogether agree with your correspondents, who say it is better to breed ponies that are too big than ponies that are too small for polo, unless they are thinking only of the breeders' pockets. If the object of the National Pony Society is to establish a type of polo and riding pony that will pass under the 14h. zin. standard at four and a-half years of age, breeders must be prepared to sacrifice a great deal in order to do so, and I think that the type will be fixed much more definitely and more quickly by breeding up than breeding down—I mean by improving the native breeds of ponies by crossing them with thoroughbreds than by trying to get the thoroughbred or nearly thoroughbred to produce small stock. Although my experience of breeding polo ponies will not be of much use to English breeders, I may mention that I have never had a pony with Welsh blood in its pedigree and which was a good player itself, that did not produce a really good player, and ponies with Welsh blood can soon be bred up to the required size. Ponies that go back to Shetlands have turned out splendidly, but take a good deal of trouble to train and a long time to breed up to size. None of the ponies I have had which go back to Exmoor or Dartmoor have had the polo temperament, and most of them have been "nappy." The native Argentine ponies have the polo temperament, plenty of bone, and if crossed with a thoroughbred produce a pony that is big enough and fast enough; but it is very difficult to get pure criolla mares that are well enough shaped to breed a high-class pony from. Although nothing to do with the height question, it is worth while writing you that during the fourteen years I have been breeding polo ponies I have often been tempted to breed from a moderate player on account of its having been exceptionally good looking, but have never bred a high-class player from a mare that has only been a moderate player herself.—FRANK BALFOUR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—With regard to judges at the Pony Show, "in the case of young stock," awarding the prizes to the big and tall ponies, one must remember that these show ponies have been corn fed from the first, and that although some will grow too big, the tendency of these ponies will be not to grow very much after the second or third year. Grass fed ones, in many cases, would grow up to six years of age, and even older, especially mares. The judges award prizes to what they find in the ring, and have not to consider whether the ponies will grow too big, but to award prizes to the best. You will find this in all classes of young stock, whether ponies or hunters, although the small compact pony is probably the best, and also the small hunter; at least, that is my opinion. Whether some instructions should be given to the judges to consider whether a pony may grow too big, that is for the National Pony Society to consider and discuss. I do not breed for size one way or the other, except in the case of my coach-horses. With my Arabs I prefer them about 14h. zin. or 14h. zin., as I find they are better when not too big. One must remember, however, that for present-day polo the ponies need be big and strong as well as high.—GEORGE SAVILE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I have been thinking much of the important questions raised by "Heather" in his letter on the excessive height of polo pony young stock at our shows. The points raised by your correspondent are a part of the whole problem of the height and measurement of polo ponies. On right decisions on these points depend the future of polo pony breeding in this country, and perhaps of the game itself. There is a tendency, undoubtedly, both in this country and in America, to ride smaller ponies in the game. This your correspondent has noted. If the ponies used are too big, it has a tendency to drive out light men and those of only average strength. These big ponies are too unwieldy, and, above all, they require long sticks. Anyone who has wielded a polo stick knows how much difference the length and weight of the stick makes to the staying power of the player in a hard game, yet the polo pony must have weight. It needs it both to give resisting power against the movements of the player in the saddle and to prevent the pony being knocked out in a bumping game. The least height that gives us the necessary weight in the polo pony is about 14h. zin. Hurlingham measurement. This is where, I think, your correspondent has put his finger on the weak place revealed by the instances he quotes. The breeder knows that if his stock are to have the perfection of make and shape necessary in a polo pony, the pony must from the first grow unchecked. But when a pony at one, two or three years old is so big that it seems likely that it will grow over height, the breeder must do one of two things; he must either resign himself to the animal growing over height and becoming a light-weight hunter or a hack, or he must endeavour to check its growth if the pony is to be kept at polo height. This is probably to sacrifice the fine shape of the pony, and we may well have a three-cornered animal of no value, though it measures easily enough. In any case, the whole subject should be laid before the Council at their next meeting. There is no time to be lost, because we could not well make the change without giving breeders considerable notice.—T. F. D.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—As one solution of the height difficulty raised by "Heather," I would suggest the formation of a class of ponies which have failed to pass under

the Hurlingham standard. Unless we consider the Hurlingham standard of 14h. zin. as the absolute limit of height (which it is not) for any pony dealt with by the National Pony Society, there appears to me to be no class at all for that exceedingly useful animal the 15h. small horse or riding pony, whichever you like to call it. I can imagine no more useful animal for Army purposes than this. He may have all the qualifications of the highest class polo pony except one, in the present consideration quite an unimportant one, viz., his failure to register for height, yet there is, as far as I know, no class for him in any show. It would appear to me to come within the scope of the National Pony Society rather than the Hunters' Society, and, personally, I would not like to see the Hunters' Society start a class for this pony, as it would seem that their next step might be to have a polo pony section, and there is always the fear that now the door to the Polo Pony Society has been so widely opened by their change of name, a feeling may exist among polo players that they would rather have their section taken over by a society that deals purely with riding animals. To anyone with the interests of the old Polo and Riding Pony Society at heart, such a change could only be looked upon with consternation. The institution of the class mentioned above would not be such a drastic step as appears at first sight, as they have already dropped in one direction the Hurlingham 14h. zin. standard and raised the height for stallions, and it would surely widen the scope of the National Pony Society if such an animal as the 15h. blood cob, which may well be, and often is, bred on ideal lines, found a class at the society's show. For military purposes he would be just as valuable as the animal which passes under the Hurlingham standard, would be cheaper for its failure to do so, and would tend to show a better return for the breeder, as it would give him an increased chance of bringing such an animal before the public. It would also help "Heather" in his present difficulty, as young stock which grows too big would still have a chance of competing at this show. Further, it is obvious that this class would find great favour with the Board of Agriculture as tending to increase the supply of horses for Government purposes.—ATHOMEALONE.

[An important letter on this subject by the Rev. D. B. Montefiore will be found following our Racing Notes.—Ed.]

### THE HARNESS CLASSES AT OLYMPIA.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—If we examine the prize list of the International Show we shall see that of the £11,000 to be distributed, by far the larger part is to be given to harness horses and jumping competitions. To the sums distributed for jumping no exception can be taken; these prizes are the condition of public support. Nor is there any objection to the harness classes absorbing the large sums assigned to them; they, too, are popular. Moreover, those of us who think that driving will have a revival must be grateful to the managers of the show for keeping up the high standard of the English carriage horses and for making them attractive. But is it necessary that the horses shown should be all of one stamp? There is, many of us think, too much hackney in the prize winners. I am not undervaluing the hackney, but there are several other types of carriage horse which might be encouraged. The judges seem able only to see the hackneys. We are told that the International Horse Show is an institution for encouraging horse breeding and not for making money. Very well, that is, no doubt, as it should be; but there ought to be as wide a distribution as possible. How many of these show horses would keep their action if they did a fair amount of work on the road every day for a month at, say, an average of eight miles an hour? How many hang on the driver's hand after six or seven miles? Even in the coaching competition, what chance has a team of real coach horses? Some of the winners at the Coaching Marathon last year were a great deal more b'own than they ought to have been. There is gradually coming a continually increasing gap between the road horse and the show horse in harness. One has only to look at some of these prize winners in their leisure moments to see that if all the horses were stripped and shown to the judges in hand as well as in harness they might not please the judges' eye so well. Some of the best harness horses that are seen in the ring are the beautiful bays that, ridden by postillions, bring in and take out the fences. What we want is standard of judgment for carriage horses which shall not in all cases set hackney action and type as the one to be conformed to, and which shall judge the horse as well as its action.—A SHAREHOLDER.

### FRUIT GROWING IN A SOUTHERN COUNTY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I understand that fruit growing has greatly increased in England and that it can be done in any Southern County. I should like to communicate with some gentleman able to assert that a living can be made out of it, provided that proper instruction is first obtained. If you cannot answer this directly, perhaps you will put me on the right track.—PATER.

[We forwarded this query to a qualified expert who sends the following reply to it: "In answer to your enquiry about the prospects of fruit growing in the Southern Counties of England, there is undoubtedly a living to be made out of it provided the holding is worked on economic lines. The grower needs practical as well as theoretical instruction before setting up on his own. He requires to learn something of the management of labour and of the suitability of certain markets for his produce. The whole question of disposal and transit facilities must be considered before embarking to plant fruit, and the grower must make up his mind at the very outset as to what type of trade he wishes to supply. If he decides on a wholesale trade, he will probably do best to settle in one of the recognised fruit districts, such as there are in Kent, Worcestershire or Cambridge. The added expenditure in rent will well be compensated for by the increased advantages in other directions. If, on the other hand, it is intended to supply a purely local trade, then the grower has a wider range of choice in his locality, but still he must be guided by suitability of soil, climate, aspect and elevation. There are unsuitable



as well as suitable soils in the Southern Counties. When these things have been properly investigated and the grower has learned his profession, he has every chance of making a living; but he must know not only how to grow fruit, but what varieties to grow and how to market each variety most advantageously. Then he stands a fair chance of making more than a living in a good year. The grower requires some capital at his back, for he has some time of waiting before his profits come in. I should not advise any man to start on a fifty-acre farm unless he has £1,000 capital. Vegetables and small fruit help the grower to tide over the time of waiting until his orchard trees come into bearing, and these in themselves may be highly profitable if properly managed. It is ten years before we growers reckon on getting a profitable crop off standard apples planted on the crab stock, but these can be interplanted with bush apples on the paradise, which will bring in a profit about their fifth or sixth year. These again can be interplanted with soft fruit—strawberries, of course, are the quickest to return a profit (*i.e.*, in their second year). As regards actual profits, an acre of Bramley's Seedling, commercially planned, might bear a crop worth £70 or £80 at twelve years old. I have known plantations do so last year. This leaves the grower a very substantial margin of profit when all expenses have been deducted—a margin of £40 or £50 at the very least—but these are very favourable figures in a favourable season, and the best fruit growers, like everyone else, sometimes "get hit." The general increase in fruit growing, so long as it means the multiplication of only standard varieties of fruit, will, I think, be entirely favourable to individual growers. Disposal will become easier rather than more difficult.—Ed.]

#### SOUTH AFRICAN THUNDERSTORMS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I forward a photograph of lightning on the Veldt, taken at 10 p.m. during a most terrific thunderstorm, which converted the streets into miniature rushing torrents, the storm itself only lasting for half an hour.



LIGHTNING ON THE VELDT.

The lightning was extremely vivid; and the flashes are plainly visible in the photograph.—THOMAS H. BLACK, Pretoria.

#### SALMON-FISHING AT KILLARNEY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—You very kindly gave me great help in your delightful paper (which I have taken in since its commencement) about salmon-fishing. Would you help me again, as, owing to illness, I have been unable to take advantage of your information?

I am now advised to go to the Lake Hotel, Killarney, for May. Can you tell me anything about the place and what the fishing is like, if salmon are to be caught in the lake, and also when sea-trout can be caught? Any hints you can give me will be very welcome. Another place for trout I have been told of is Bakewell and Rosely, neither of which I know anything of. Can you advise on these? —SALMO.

[There is a book by Matson on Salmon and Trout in Ireland, and Killarney is said

to be good for salmon and sea-trout in the rivers and the lake. May should be early for sea-trout, except possibly towards the end of the month. Matson's book is about 1s., and a good textbook for the angler; all about fishing and hotels. We know of anglers who have fished for trout just below Bakewell, and say it is good trout-fishing. There is free fishing, we are told, at the Peacock Hotel. Of course, it is the Dove of Izaak Walton, and very pretty and a dry-fly water.—Ed.]

#### FROM THE STEWARTRY.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—Your readers who are interested in gardens and gardeners may like

to see this photograph of a memorial stone, erected in 1776, over the grave of a man who had been gardener on the estate of Cally, near Gatehouse-of-Fleet, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The stone stands beside the ruins of the old church of Girthon parish.—C. H. DICK.



THE GARDENER'S MEMORIAL.

#### MUD COTTAGES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I have read with interest the correspondence on this subject. In Spain whole villages are constructed of this material, which is known as "tapia." Only in the houses of the well-to-do is brick used. I lived for years in a house the lower floor of which was of brick and the upper part of tapia, plastered outside and in. I found it both comfortable and weatherproof and warm in winter. As to durability, there was a castle near by which must have been over a hundred years old. The walls constructed of tapia were still in good preservation. I once examined a farmhouse in the Orange Free State, South Africa, which had been burnt down by British troops. The walls were hard and in good preservation. The owner, who was the happy possessor of a new house of more than double its value, built for him by the Government, told me the destroyed house was over forty years old. As a material for building the walls of outhouses, dairies and incubator houses—it should prove cheap and durable. The walls should be at least two feet thick and not more than ten feet high. A greater height might be reached by increasing the thickness to three feet. The walls are constructed by well ramming the earth in the form of stiff mud between wooden frames similar to those used for making concrete walls. Work should only be carried on in dry weather, and unfinished walls should be protected from the rain to prevent it percolating from the upper side down through the interior of the wall, which would soon bring about its destruction. The sides require to be plastered to protect them from the rain. This plastering requires frequent renewal owing to its scaling off, from the difficulty of getting a good "key." See illustration in last week's issue. Dampness may be got over by building a brick wall for about one foot from the ground and laying a damp-proof course before commencing the tapia wall. If the eaves of the roof are guttered it will prevent the walls being splashed by rain dropping from the roof.—H. H. G.



SOME LONDONERS COMMENCE THEIR BATHING SEASON.

#### IN LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—I enclose you herewith a photograph of a rather pretty sight to be seen just now when the sun shines after rain, which I trust may be of use to you. —CLAUDE GAGGERO.

#### GUTTERING CANDLES.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—The statement in "Y.'s" communication as to hanging a spoon and altering the flame of a candle is quite new to me. But the answer appeared

to me at once to be: The reason for the diminution of the flame by the position of the spoon may be that the up current of air caused by the flame itself has been altered in direction by the concavity and convexity of the spoon affecting the outsides of the flame, and creating more or less an approach to a vacuum at the centre. This is a guess on my part, not the result of experiment. Am I right?—B. H.

#### A SMALL GIRL'S PET.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—I enclose a pretty snapshot of a motherless lamb and its foster-mother, which you may like to publish. It was taken at Loughrigg, Ambleside.—V. G. M.



THE MOTHERLESS LAMB AND ITS FOSTER MOTHER.

#### YELLOW CROCUSES DYING OUT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—“Because they do not produce seed,” you tell us. True; but you do not tell us why! May not the answer be: Because by repeated cropping yellow crocus has become emasculated. The reason they have died out here, I have always put down to the determined attacks of sparrows on the flower and leaves and field mice upon the roots. Now, why do sparrows and mice destroy only the yellow ones?—J. A. HARVIE BROWNS.

[We fear it is impossible for anyone to say why yellow crocuses do not produce seed. The yellow Dutch crocuses have for many generations been reproduced very freely by vegetative means, and if given a sunny position in fairly light soil will no doubt continue to do so. Why sparrows and mice select yellow crocuses and leave others alone is a question that has not, so far as we are aware, ever been definitely answered.—Ed.]



CAPT. ALEXANDER'S BOER COLLIE HARRIE.

dead. I got her on the surrender of General Prinsloo in the South African War. She was a wonderful sheepdog in her day.—R. ALEXANDER (Captain).

#### PIGS THAT PAY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I was prevented from seeing Mr. Aronson's last letter when it appeared. If not too late, may I say that everyone will agree with him in thinking that pig rearing on a small scale promises well at the present time? But it is necessary for cottagers to bear in mind that, where there is no grass, house or allotment refuse plays an important, and not merely an incidental, part in the food supply. No two pigs could live for five months after being weaned on only eleven shillings' worth of meal. It is also well to remember that

breeding has its serious risks as well as its profits. With regard to the allotment holder who bought five pigs, ten weeks old, for £1 12s. 6d. (that is 6s. 6d. each), all I will say is that the present price of healthy pigs at that age in Somerset is between 25s. and 30s. each.—J. DAVENPORT POWER.

#### UNDERPLANTING OF LARCH.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

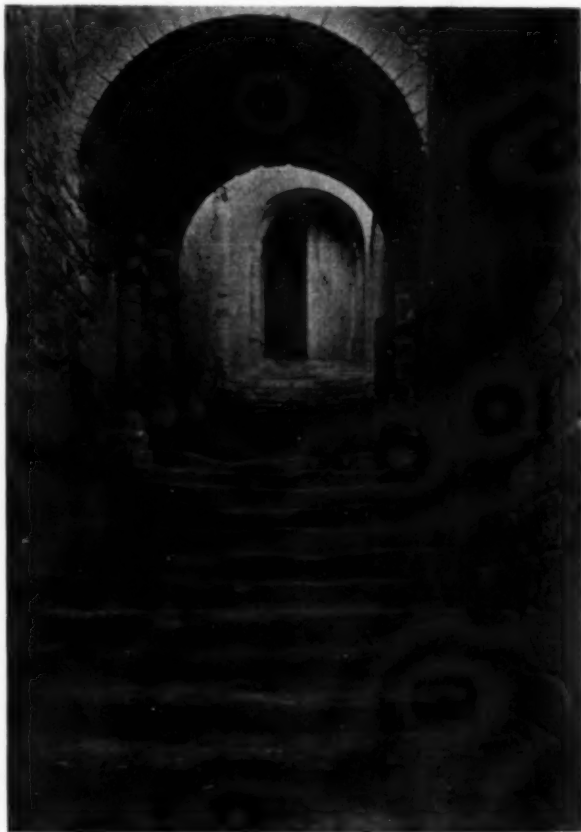
SIR,—I would have answered Mr. Bolam's letter before, but have been away in France on a forestry tour. Every single plant is reared at the Novar nurseries. They are invariably grown from seed, and thus the exact cost of the plants

is difficult to set down. The following figures are approximate: Hemlock spruce, 25s. per 1,000; Abies grandis, 25s. per 1,000; Thuja gigantea, 12s. per 1,000; Sitka spruce, 10s. per 1,000; Douglas fir, 10s. per 1,000—all at three to four years old. If the plants be not reared from seed, but are obtained ready for planting out, the cost for each species would be approximately four times the above figures. Mr. Mackenzie, the forester at Novar, tells me that he can recommend no individual species specially in checking the spores of the larch fungus. The two names, Menzies' spruce and Sitka spruce, refer to the same species. The land reckoned as having an annual value of over £2 per acre consists of larch and Douglas fir, the latter acting as nurse—but some adjoining ground, planted with larch and Abies grandis, has an almost equal value. I should be most happy to answer any further questions on the subject.—SETON GORDON.

#### A NORMAN STAIR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I am sending a photograph to you of the Norman stair to the Great Hall in Castle Rising. The approach possesses remarkable dignity and charm.—C. H. HEWITT.



NORMAN STAIR TO THE GREAT HALL AT CASTLE RISING.

#### A SOUTH AFRICAN VETERAN.

[THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—I am sending you a photograph of my Boer collie, "Harrie," just lately